King's Way Benefice News

Living and sharing the Good News of Christ by serving East Bristol

Sunday 13th September

Collect for Today — The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Worship Services on Sunday 13th September

St Michael's	9.00am	Holy Communion	Rev. Matt Stone
King's Way Benefice	10.30am	**Junior Church**	St John's Church hall
St Aidan's	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev. Canon Paul Denyer
St John's	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev. Matt Stone

Worship Services on Sunday 20th September

St Michael's	9.00am	Holy Communion	Rev. Nicola Callen
King's Way Benefice		**No Junior Church**	
St Aidan's	10.30am	Service of the Word	Neil Baker
St John's	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev. Nicola Callen

Lectionary readings for 13th Sept	Gen. 50:15-21 / Rom. 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Lectionary readings for 20th Sept	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16

Regular Meetings King's Way Benefice

Mondays	**Home Group** 2.30pm—4.00pm at Wesley Cottage (for more details, email: anthony.hick@methodist.org.uk or phone 07726 342744)
Tuesdays	**Morning Prayer** 9.15am at St John's
Wednesdays	**Morning Prayer** 9 am at St Aidan's
Thursdays	**Holy Communion** 10am at St John's Church followed by Coffee & Chat **Coffee and Chat** 10am -12pm at St Aidan's **Home Group** 7.30pm (now meeting face to face every fortnight; speak to Rob Towler for more information)
Saturdays	**Bible Study** 10am -11.30am at St John's

Thought for the week by Rev Derek Clacey

Question to Jesus: "If my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?"

His reply: "No, not seven times…..but seventy times seven."

The gospel reading in our church services today, from Matthew ch.18 is a gloriously visual parable Jesus told to his disciples about apology and forgiveness. In a nutshell, it's about servant who, either through corruption or pure incompetence, loses a lot of his boss's money, is sacked and thrown into gaol until he can pay his debts. The servant begs the boss for mercy. The boss forgives him and lets him off. The servant then goes and violently, with menaces and threats, extracts a few quid from a fellow employee who owes him. The other employees, seeing the injustice, complain to the boss, who throws the book at him, (metaphorically!), and bangs him up in gaol again until he pays up all his debts.

When I was a parish priest I loved hamming this parable up in my regular junior school assemblies, with the children miming and me narrating (any excuse for a bit of drama!) I'm not sure they fully appreciated the point of the whole parable but they certainly remembered taking part. I would leave it to the staff to calm them down again as they filed out to start their lessons for the day!

So what is the point of this parable? Among a number of things which things occurred to me from this story were the reminders to apologise and to forgive. To apologise when we've done something wrong, not by just going through the motions of saying "sorry" when we've upset someone, but true apology from the heart is one of the most healing and restorative things we can do.

It's also about our willingness to forgive the wrongs done to us, remembering that God has already forgiven us for all that we have done wrong, or have not done right. At the centre of our faith is the self-sacrifice Jesus made by his death on the cross, which paid the price for our sins.

Apologising and forgiving are powerful ways of working out God's love for all people, and are at the centre of God's Kingdom and of our faith in this age of broken relationships at all levels, between individuals, families, communities and nations, and bring peace and well-being in their wake. As summer ends and the new academic year has begun, perhaps now is a good time to think about things like forgiveness and apology, it can make all the difference to the peace and wellbeing of everyone.

Best wishes

Derek Clacey

THE ARK

@

St Aidan's

The PCC at St Aidan's have made the decision
to discontinue the monthly Ark services for the time being.
In place of this will be a Service of the Word
which will continue to be creative and accessible
for all ages.
Any questions, contact Matt, Sheila or Neil.

And next Sunday will be a Service of the Word led by Neil.

A Story of Forgiveness

Corrie ten Boom

Corrie ten Boom was a Dutch Christian who survived Ravensbrück, where her beloved sister, Betsie, died due to brutal conditions and cruel guards. After the war, Corrie travelled around speaking about God's forgiveness and healing. Following a church service in Munich, a man approached her. She recognized him instantly as one of the most vicious and cruel guards from the shower room in Ravensbrück.

The man told her he had become a Christian and believed his sins were washed away, but he wanted to hear forgiveness from her lips as well: "Fraulein, will you forgive me?" he asked as he thrust out his hand to shake hers. Corrie froze, and coldness clutched her heart as memories of Betsie's suffering under this man flooded back. She knew the teaching of Jesus that if we do not forgive others, neither will our heavenly Father forgive us. She struggled to raise her hand. She felt no warm feelings of love or forgiveness. She breathed a silent prayer that Jesus would forgive her angry thoughts and help her to forgive this man. She remembered that forgiveness is not an emotion, but an act of the will.

She tentatively raised her hand and as she grasped his, she felt a current of overwhelming warmth and healing race down her arm and through her hand into his. Her heart was filled with love for this former guard. She later wrote in her book that she had never known God's love so intensely as she did then.

*If you would like to read Corrie ten Boom's story – the family's efforts to hide Jews from the Nazis, their subsequent arrest by the Gestapo and their harrowing experiences in concentration camps, including Ravensbrück - are all told in her book, '**The Hiding Place'.** The story is not just about the darkness of humanity during war but also about hope, forgiveness, and steadfast faith.*

Published over 50 years ago, it can still be bought from Amazon – or I do have a battered copy I will lend to anyone who would like to read it and promises to return it!

Sheila McKay

A Prayer for Times when it's Difficult to Forgive Others

Lord, it is so hard at times to put aside my hurt and anger toward those who sin against me.
Please soften my hard heart and melt away my resentment.
Help me remember the teaching of Jesus to always forgive those who cause me pain.
Grant me the supernatural strength to forgive
as completely and freely as you have forgiven me.
Remind me of the immense mercy I have received at the cross,
so that I can extend that same mercy to those who hurt me.
Take away the desire for retaliation or holding onto grudges.
Fill me with your unfailing love and healing.
Release me from the chains of unforgiveness and give me the freedom to walk in peace.
In Jesus' name, I pray.
Amen

MAKE A NOTE

Silent Film Night

The Magic of the Twenties
on St Aidan's Widescreen

Saturday 14 November

starring

Donald MacKenzie
at the organ

Arts at St Aidan's

Priest in Charge of Benefice	Rev. Matt Stone	07470471359
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Focal Minister for St Michael's	Rev Nicola Callen	07837 287455
	revnicola@kingswaybenefice.org	
Lead Minister for St Aidan's	Rev. Pippa White	
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Wardens for St John's	Dave Higham	07898 621683
	Nigel Seville	07940 584498
Warden for St Michael's	Trudy Britton	07939 917256

King's Way Benefice Office:
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Working hours: Mon 9am-1pm, Tue 1pm-5pm & Thurs 9am-1pm.
Office opening hours Monday am and Thursday am.

The newsletter this week has been sent out by Sheila McKay as Amy is on annual leave.

Please send copy for next week's newsletter to sjmckay64@outlook.com