

View from the Vicarage 20th June 2021 3rd Sunday after Trinity

Job 28: 1 - 11, Mark 4: 35 – 41

Our reading from Job this Sunday seems a little odd. First of all, Job seems to be providing us with a description of the mining industry?! It's also odd, because this passage comes in the middle of his passionate final discourse to his friends, defending God, despite the incredible hardships he has suffered. Some think that chapter 28 has been inserted by another writer, as it is so out of place. In some Bibles, it is headed 'Interlude'.

It is a change of pace from everything else that is going on at this point in the book. Job is speaking about himself, lamenting the apparent withdrawal of God from him. Job equates his punishment with the punishment God has allotted to the wicked. Although Job is not wicked, he will not denounce God for treating him badly. 'For what hope have the godless when they are cut off when God takes away their life?' (Job 27:8). Job's hope is still with God. But he is in despair. One can imagine Job in chapters 27 and 29 crying out to God in his misery.

But chapter 28 is more reflective, thoughtful. This interlude of often called 'Where wisdom is found'. He starts by describing the lengths people will go to in order to find silver, gold and precious stones. They will create deep shafts, dig in the darkest places, and they will find what they are looking for. But if you read on from our reading, Job asks 'But where can wisdom be found?' (Job 28:12). And he answers his own question. The efforts of humankind cannot find wisdom. The hard-won silver, gold and precious stones cannot buy wisdom. Wisdom can only come from God. 'The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.' (Job 28:28).

Job's friends questioned God's motives in allowing Job to be punished so harshly. But Job cannot turn his back on God – that would make things worse. Like the godless, he would have nothing. He would have no hope. If he fears God and shuns evil – that is where he will find wisdom and understanding.

When we are faced with disaster, it is natural to ask why God has allowed it. It is understandable to turn away from a God who would appear to have deserted you. But Job pauses his lament to remind himself that it is only in God we find wisdom, hope and understanding. Our own efforts to explain cannot succeed, they will only take us to deeper darker places. Sometimes, we need to take an interlude from the chaos and remind ourselves, that God is with us.

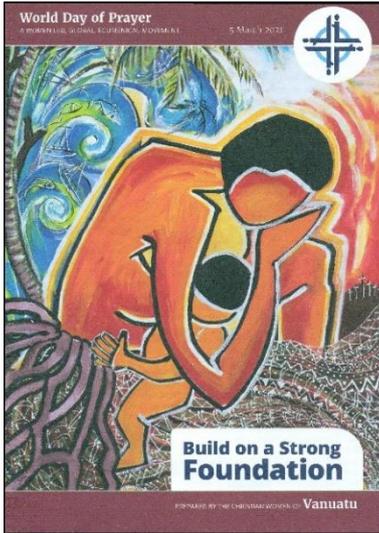
Feel blessed, trust God, keep praying. Reverend Carol Ball

Collect

God our saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen



World Day of Prayer



The World Day of Prayer went online this year, but we will hold a gathering to mark it now we can meet. The South Woodham Ferrers Churches will join with Christians across the world to pray for Vanuatu and our own nation.

The World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 25th June 2021 at 2.00pm at New Life Church Crouch Valley (40 Clements Green Lane, South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5JP).

It will be an informal gathering held outside in the garden. This will give us an opportunity to gather together to give thanks for God's faithfulness in this last year.

Please feel free to bring along a garden chair, wear brightly coloured clothes and flowers. If you would like more information please contact: lesleybee@btinternet.com

ECO-CHURCH – TOP TIPS TO SAVE THE PLANET!



Turn appliances off at the plug overnight

Standard home appliances can use up to 10% of normal power in standby mode. Turning them off at the plug reduces the power needed in your home and can save you anything from £40-£80 a year. It very much varies per household - the older your appliances are the more energy they'll be using on stand-by and the more you'll save by switching them off.

*****HELP STILL NEEDED!*****

It takes a number of people to ensure our services run smoothly each Sunday. There are various little jobs to be done. At the moment we are relying on a small group of people for this. We need more people to get involved. Can you help? You just need to tell us your availability and then come a little early for the service. You don't have to come every week, but even just one Sunday a month would be great! The more people we have on the rota, the more we can spread the load. This is what we need:

Stewards (formally known as sidespersons). To greet people at the door, take track and trace details, remind them about masks and hand sanitiser and generally make sure they feel welcome.

Readers to read one of our Bible passages from the pulpit. We will provide the reading.

Prayers. To lead the intercessions. You don't need to create the prayers if you don't want to – there are pre-written prayers you can read.

Post service cleaning – A few minutes after the service to make sure that the church is sanitised for the next service.

You will be given all the guidance and help you need to get started. This is a great opportunity to get involved, and you will be really helping everyone in the Church family to worship. If you would like more details, or to volunteer, please contact me, or Sarah on 01245 325049. Email:

hparishadm@outlook.com

SWF FOODBANK

SWF Foodbank will now serve clients in person, as with other centres. Delivery will only be made in exceptional circumstance. People in crisis, with empty family cupboards, are desperate and demand continues to grow. Donations should be placed in the specified trolleys in SWF Asda, SWF Sainsbury's & One Stop, Hullbridge Road. Alternatively donated items in SWF can be collected if you email your address and contact number to me. Monetary donations are also welcome. Many thanks. Peter Blackman, HT Coordinator; peter@blackmanservices.co.uk .

Food Items needed please: Crisps; Biscuits; Small & Medium jars of Coffee; Tinned Rice Puddings; Sponge Puddings; UHT Milk; Tinned Peas; Tinned Carrots; Tinned Mixed Vegetables.

Other Items needed: Men's & Women's Toiletries; Toothbrushes; Toothpaste; Liquid Soap; Toilet Rolls; Men's' Shampoo; Washing Up Liquid; Small or Medium Washing Powder, Gel or Liquid.

PLEASE HELP BY NOT DONATING OTHER ITEMS AT PRESENT.

Financial donations can be made by:

- Using a button on the website www.chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk
- Cheques to: Chelmsford Foodbank, PO Box 9174, Chelmsford, CM1 9AE, made out to 'Chelmsford Foodbank'
- Bank transfers to Chelmsford Foodbank, HSBC Ltd. Sort Code 40-17-08. Account number 52285835.

Thanks for your fantastic generosity.

Joining our virtual services by telephone

There is a phone number you can use to call into our services. You will be able to hear everybody and chat, but not see people and we can't see you. The cost is the same as a local call from your phone and you need to have a # key on your keypad. This is how it's done:

About five minutes before the service call: 0203 481 5240. You will be asked for a Meeting id. Meeting id numbers are with the services above. Key in the number and then press the '#' key. You will then be asked for our personal id. You don't need this, just press the '#' key.

Then you will be asked for the meeting password. Again – you can find this with the services above. Key in the password and press the '#' key. Wait a moment and you should hear our voices. Say hello!

Daily Hope phone line – a FREE phone line from the Church of England offering reflections as well as full worship services, which you can listen to or join in! The line – which is **available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.



SERVICES

Thursday 24th June and Thursday 1st July

10:00am: Prayer Service. Zoomers will receive an invite. **By phone Meeting ID: 485 779 5659 Password: 821476.**

Sunday 20th June

10:00am: Service of Communion in Holy Trinity Church. No booking required, please follow instructions of stewards. **Service will be live-streamed** on Reverend Carol's YouTube Channel – click on this link - [Reverend Carol's YouTube channel](#). If you can't join the live stream, the service can be viewed afterwards in the same place.

10:00am: Zoom Service 'Worshipping Together' from the Parish of Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre. **By phone: Meeting ID: 873 8536 2401 Password: 091170**

11:30am: Service of Communion at St. Mary's. YOU MUST BOOK IN ADVANCE – SPACES ARE LIMITED. Call or text Sharon on 07773 644326, or email: maysons@talktalk.net.

Facebook Prayer Meetings from the Methodist Church (all at 7pm)

Mondays – Led by Rev Barry and Ria Allen <https://www.facebook.com/mwbarrya>

Wednesdays – Led by Deacon Ramona Samuels <https://www.facebook.com/ramona.samuel.984>

Fridays – Led by Rev. Mark Pengelly <https://www.facebook.com/revmarkp1>

Services on TV and Radio

BBC 1 – Sunday Worship – Sundays at 11:30am **BBC 2 - Songs of Praise – Sundays at 1:15pm**

BBC Radio 4 – Sunday Worship – Sundays at 8:10am

BBC Essex – Church on Sunday – Sundays at 8:00am

All TV and Radio services available on BBC iPlayer or BBC Sounds after broadcast.

The Church of England Website has been live streaming weekly services on Sunday at 9am. You can watch the live stream or catch up later <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Services from Chelmsford Cathedral: <https://www.facebook.com/chelmsfordcathedral>

Please note you have to have FaceBook installed to watch. After the live streaming the services are uploaded to the Cathedral YouTube page, so you can watch them anytime (you don't need Facebook for this). <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCygvBaZCltwgWi1hNexg19Q>

Chelmsford Methodist Circuit has a YouTube channel on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrQavARuyJM1FsVUBI8l6Sw>

The New Life Church has a YouTube channel on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/NewLifeChurchCrouchValleyTV>

Their website is: <https://newlife-church.org.uk/>

Memory Worship Service from the Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea. For those with or without dementia, to provide comfort and re-assurance as well as a chance to worship God.

Monthly services available on YouTube: This is the link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOoSL9ggNJO>