



**St John the Divine Church,  
Selsdon  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
Trinity Sunday**

## **Welcome**

Welcome back to St John's, we hope that you enjoy today's service.  
We welcome The Revd Richard Ford to take our service today.

**PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU**

### **Opening Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Psalm :** The Psalm for Sunday is No 29

**Anthem:** Holy, Holy, Holy – Schubert

### **First Reading**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.’

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

*Isaiah 6.1-8*

## **Gospel Reading**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?’

‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.’

*John 3.1-17*

**For your prayers: Read by**

**We pray for God’s love to surround:**

Jonathan Aitken, Tano Grima, Margaret Rapp, Robin Sullivan

**We pray for those who have died recently:**

Wendy Horner

**We pray for loved ones on the anniversary of their death:**

30th May Maurice Allchin (1983)

Charles Welch (1997)

31st May Sidney Cooley (1985)

1st June Bob Tagart (2012)

Charlie Stewart (2015)

2nd June Dulciebella Vigar (1982)

3rd June John Barratt (1984)

Audrey Spencer (2007)

Doris Prew (2003)

Doris Beale (2015)

4th June Bert Blake (1967)

Rachel Weavers (1972)

Eunice Griffin (1984)

Charles Henderson (1993)

5th June Edwin ‘Ted’ Halon (2008)

**If you'd like prayer either for yourself or for another, please email [rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com)**

**And if you would like to include the name of a loved one among the list of the departed on the anniversary of their death, please email Amanda on the above email.**

***Do you have any news you want to share ???***

***Please email Amanda in the the Parish Office and she can add to the Notice sheet /Website / Facebook Page***

***Email: [bookingsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohns@gmail.com)***



**If you'd like to discuss arranging a baptism (christening), a wedding or a funeral, please call:**

**Tel: 0208 6572343 or email [rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com)**

# **The Parish Office**

**Will be normally open Mon- Thur 9am -2pm  
( Times may vary in School Holidays)**

**Tel: 0208 6579466**

**mobile number 07958 682103**

**email [bookingsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohns@gmail.com)**

**St John's Website address is:**

**[www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk)**

**To find our Facebook page simply search  
St John the Divine Selsdon**

## **Sunday Services at 10 am**

**Could we remind everyone of the following:**

**Coronavirus is highly infectious. Older people and those with underlying health problems are at increased risk of severe illness and potentially death It is critical that we follow strict rules if we wish the church to remain open**

**1 Everyone must wear a mask properly unless they have a compelling reason not to do so and must sanitise on entry to and departure from church**

**2 Spacing is critical, please do not huddle together and please keep 2m apart unless you are in a bubble, sit on chairs which have a green square on them**

**3 Leave church in a measured way, not in a scrum and do not stand at the back of the church talking to others**

**4 Windows need to be open, as does the back door**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP THE CHURCH OPEN AND  
PROTECTING OUR CONGREGATION**

## **Father Michael's Diary**



28 May 2021

### INCOMPREHENSIBLE

“...and the whole (expletive deleted) thing incomprehensible!” that famous remark, usually attributed to the 20<sup>th</sup> century writer Dorothy L Sayers sums up what a lot of people are probably thinking as once again we approach Trinity Sunday. And the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, one of the most distinctive features of Christianity, certainly is very hard to explain, it is reckoned the people who have to preach on Trinity Sunday have drawn the short straw.

The problem arises because the Doctrine of the Trinity is trying to draw together two incompatible modes of thought: the Greek mode which defines things by what they *are* and the Hebrew mode which defines things by what they *do*. We tend to think in Greek way with the result that most of our images of God are static and so fail to capture the essential nature of the Godhead which is active and dynamic.

Try to think of it this way – picture three people dancing together but now, if you can, imagine that the three people in addition to dancing around one another are also dancing *through* each other.

Three persons of the Trinity are separate and distinct from one another, yet together they make up only one God. This means while each Person acts alone, the action of each is held in dynamic tension with the other two. The Father begets the Son, the Son carries out his Father's will in creation and redemption, the energy their self-giving love is the Holy Spirit. But it's here that human language and human thought desert us, before the Triune God we can only fall on our faces in speechless adoration.

In Rublev's famous icon a copy of which hangs over the credence table by the nave altar the three angels represent, reading from left to right the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Father and the Holy Spirit incline their heads towards the Son who reaches out towards the chalice standing the centre of the table. The chalice represents the Passion so the icon shows the moment when the Son accepts the incarnation (that he must be made man) with all the suffering that will entail. It is the nearest thing we have to a representation of the Trinity in action. The position of the figures and the perspective of the picture draw us into it, we are part of the action the dynamic energy of the Trinity includes us, we have our part to play in God's great work of creation, redemption, and glorification.

## **READINGS AND PRAYERS**

**30 May – TRINITY SUNDAY** – John 3. 1-17 – Nicodemus – for all enquirers

**31 May – The visit of Mary to Elizabeth** – Luke.1.39-49 – Mary visits Elizabeth - The Mothers Union

**1 June** – Justin, Martyr at Rome, c.165 – John 15.18-21 – servants are not greater than their master – Justin, our Archbishop.

**2 June** – Wednesday – Mark 12.18-27 – the resurrection the dead – alldeparted relatives and friends

**3 June – CORPUS CHRISTI** – Mark 14.12-26 – the Last Supper – thanksgiving for the Eucharist

**4 June – Friday** – Tobit 11.5-15 – Tobit's sight is restored – the healing ministry of the Church.

**5 June** – Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop, Apostle of Germany, Martyr, 754- Luke 10.1-11 – the evangelistic work of the church at home and abroad

## **Database Update**

I would like to get an up-to date contact list ready for when Younis our new Rector starts. If you have had any changes to your address, telephone number or email in the last two years please can you let me know so I can update my records. It may be, I already have the change but just to double check

You can either email me on [bookingsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohns@gmail.com) or Telephone 0208 6579466 and leave a message if I am not available.

Many Thanks in advance Amanda

## ST JOHN'S CHURCH



## MESSY GARDEN

If you collected a Flower Growing Kit at the 10am Service on Easter Sunday please note that the growing plants can be returned to St John's at the

**All Age Service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at the 10am service**

Planting will be in the Children's Garden immediately after the service

Please come along and plant your flowers!

Refreshments will be provided

If you need any further information or help please contact

Gill Salter on 0208 405 9971

**Thank you for all your support !!!**

### ***Christian Aid Raffle***

Our raffle was well supported, and we will be sending £300 to Christian Aid thank you for all your ticket purchases.

### ***Plant Sale***

Many thanks for the donations of plants and preserves. The sale was well supported, we raised the magnificent sum of £440.04 towards church funds. There is chutney for sale at the back of the church and there are plants behind the garden room at the back of church- please have a look. Donations Welcome

Thanks again for your support and generosity.





## **Singing hymns and spiritual songs...**

Understanding the doctrine of the Holy, blessed and indivisible Trinity has challenged theologians, religious philosophers as well as churchgoers for centuries and I assure you I have nothing useful to contribute to the discussion! The idea of our God being a single person and yet recognisable to us in the form of Father, Son and Holy Spirit throughout all eternity and of equal substance to each other is something which most of us find difficult to comprehend. I have to concede that because I don't understand something completely, this does not mean that it is not fundamentally true and real. Today is Trinity Sunday when we celebrate the fullness of God. A favourite hymn we sing at the time to express our worship and celebration of the Trinity is "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty".

Reginald Heber (1783 – 1826) was an English Priest, hymn writer and latterly Bishop of Calcutta. He studied at Oxford and attained a reputation as a poet and orator. Heber was vicar of Hodnet in Shropshire, following on from his father before him. During his short life he wrote 57 hymns, of which "Holy, Holy, Holy" is probably the best known, although "Brightest and best of the sons of the morning" and "Bread of the world" are also in our repertoire. Heber was a successful preacher and is credited with bring many of the local population to Christ during his ministry in India. We usually sing this hymn to the tune "Nicaea" by John Bacchus Dykes, another noted author and priest, remembered for having written over 300 hymn tunes including Melita, the tune set to the hymn "Eternal Father, strong to save". Nicaea was written for the first edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* in 1861 and the name is a tribute to the First Council of Nicaea, held by the Roman Emperor Constantine I in 325, which formalized the doctrine of the Trinity.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!  
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man, thy glory may not see:  
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, Holy, Holy! merciful and mighty,  
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!



## ***Meeting God in silence***

**Monday evenings at 6 pm in the Garden Room**

## **The Selsdon Centre**

Thanks to some hard work behind the scenes by the staff to ensure all Covid rules are safely followed, the Centre is now able to start opening again. At the moment we are not open every day but to find out what is happening do phone the office on 0208 651 1111 and speak to Craig, Jen or Sarah to get up to date details.

Everyone is looking forward to hopefully getting back the “more normal” routines in the near future. And if you have an hour or two spare to volunteer, the staff would love to hear from you.

**WE INVITE YOU TO THE INDUCTION AND  
COLLATION OF REVD CANON YOUNIS FRANCIS  
AT ST JOHN'S ON TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY AT 7.30PM**

Join us when we welcome Younis to St John's

If you would like to attend the service, please place  
your name on the list on the table at the back of church

## **Diary Dates**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and Thur 3<sup>rd</sup> June 10 am- 1 pm**

Private Prayer

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

Thursday Morning Eucharist 10 am

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

First Sunday after Trinity Eucharist Service 10 am

***Coming Up .....***

***Dates to pop in your diary***

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 10.00 am-**

Planting in the children's Garden

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 7.30 pm**

Induction of Revd Cannon Younis Francis at St John's

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