

**THE EWELME BENEFICE**  
*Dursley, Uley, Owlpen and Nympsfield*



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**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020**  
**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Collect**

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

**Old Testament Reading: Zechariah 9: 9-12**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

**New Testament Reading: Romans 7: 15-25a**

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30**

Jesus said; "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

**Post-communion prayer**

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Reflection**

*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

What is that people want of Jesus? When He asked the disciples "who do people say that I am?" it might not have been surprising if the disciples had truthfully said "well some say trouble!" Reading the gospels it is clear that Jesus created a tension in people's lives.

From the outset the first request was often by way of a question, *what do you want of me?* Were people ready to think, rather than be told what they should do, or how they should live their lives? Being told is easier and arguably requires less effort and commitment, so perhaps it is better to do as we are told. But Jesus poses questions and we are made to think about things as important as - who He is, what is He saying and how does it make a difference to the way that I look at life and to live the life that I have been given?

Matthew in this 11<sup>th</sup> chapter reading, picks up on that tension by focusing on people's perception of both John the Baptist and Jesus. John was strange, unconventional, challenging and Jesus too choose the the outcast and ate with "sinners", what did this convey to the world at large? Where was God in all of this if He chooses to reveal Himself in such strange characters? Both Jesus and John forced people then and still now to confront the perception of holiness and therefore what we understand to be the will and purpose of God in our lives.

Jesus' invitation to come to Him and to offload our burdens onto Him is wonderfully reassuring. Yet perhaps it takes courage to acknowledge that our needs and our lives, cannot

be lived without some help. When we call upon Him, we call out to one who loves, whatever our frailty and need. Might not the image that we long for most in the world today, is an image of care, understanding, compassion and gentleness?

What is it that we want from the Christ in our lives today?

*Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle*  
Rev'd Ian Gardner

## Intercessions

In the power of the Holy Spirit and in Union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

We pray for the whole church throughout the world, remembering especially the church in this country, and Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, the Diocese of Gloucester, with Rachel and Robert, our bishops, and all those who minister in the Ewelme Benefice, Michael, Jane, Ian, Tony, David and Richard. May they know your presence and guidance in their lives,  
Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our world which you so gloriously created and which we so badly damage. We pray that the respite that Coronavirus has given will help the environment and that we may find ways to ensure that our return to a new normality will not mean a return to the harm we cause. Give us the good will to use the resources of the earth wisely, to your glory and the good of all creation.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of world suffering hardships at this time, including the people of Hong Kong with concerns about their freedom and liberty and the people of East Africa, suffering the effects of locusts and drought, followed by flash flooding, and the Coronavirus.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, guide the leaders of all nations into the ways of peace and justice. We pray for Elizabeth, our Queen and Governor, Boris Johnson and the government. Strengthen them with wisdom, integrity and compassion, that they may think and act always in the best interests of all people, including those in countries far worse off than us.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute. Father, show your pity on prisoners and refugees, and all who are in trouble,

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those suffering in body, mind or spirit, remembering especially Katy, Jo, John, Antonio, Maria, Dave, Bryan, Joyce, Bob, Pam, Sue, Graham, Marilyn, Charles, Kaye, Lynne, Jane, Michelle and anyone known to us. May they know your healing power in their lives.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died, especially Bob Wood, and anyone known to us. We pray for their

families and friends, that they may know your comfort, and presence in this time of sadness. Grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,  
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Christine Morgan

## For Our Prayers

*If you would like someone who is currently unwell or in particular need of prayer to be named on the weekly pew sheet, please email the parish office giving the person's name and also your name as the contact. We will only use Christian names as the pew sheet is shared so widely.*

## ZOOM Sunday Service

To join our 10am service this Sunday please use the following link. Click on it or copy/paste it to your web browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84486403265?pwd=T01aenFTSURieW5BUmMyeWlaYlplZz09>

Meeting ID: 844 8640 3265

Password: 832392

To join by phone

0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 844 8640 3265

Password 832392

## Service Sheet for Worship at Home

If you are unable to join the Sunday service via Zoom, please do make use of the reflective service for use at home alongside the prayers and readings for the day which can be found on the pew sheet.

If you would like a copy please contact the office

[ewelmeparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ewelmeparishoffice@gmail.com)

'Junior Church at Home' can be found on the Facebook page every Sunday at 11.30am. All are welcome – any age!

## Visit us on Facebook:

 Ewelme Benefice Family

## Churches re-opening for services

Following the Government's latest announcement, an 11 page guidance document was issued by the C of E on Tuesday evening. I have been working with my colleagues and the Churchwardens to decide how we can safely hold services in church following the Coronavirus guidelines. To allow us time to properly consider, plan, prepare and clean we feel that the earliest possible date is Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July. This means that next Sunday's service will be for the whole Benefice at 10am via Zoom.

## Churches open for private prayer

We have reviewed this provision and received some views from congregation members. We have decided that we will extend the opening times and also open without stewards being present. The new times, from Monday, are:

St James

Mondays and Thursdays 10am – 3pm

St Giles

Tuesdays and Fridays 10am – 3pm

St Bartholomew's

Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am – 3pm

The people who lock the churches will need to carry out some light cleaning. If you have keys and would be willing to do this on a rota basis, please contact me [mgcozens86@btinternet.com](mailto:mgcozens86@btinternet.com)

**Many thanks** to those who volunteered to be stewards and apologies to those who volunteered but weren't used.

## Pastoral Care

Unfortunately due to the coronavirus, we have been advised by the Bishop that only essential visiting should take place at the moment. We are keen to continue our care and support through telephone calls. Please let Canon Michael (546459), Revd Ian Gardner (546895) or Revd Jane Wood know of those who need to be contacted or those who are in hospital and we will get in touch. Marion Kee (860364) or Pat Jones (860696) are also happy to be contacted for Uley, Owlpen and Nympsfield.

## Congratulations!

... to Matthew and Rita Bilous on the birth of Sofia June. A sister for Jack and Alex and a grand-daughter for Jane and Simon. Love and prayers to you all.

## Churches Together Summer Project

The plans to run a series of 'pop-up' creative cafes across the Cam and Dursley district during the school summer holidays are now coming together. We are being asked to partner with The Tab to run a simple café on in Dursley Tab's garden/the Recreation ground on **Wednesday mornings 11am – 12.30pm for 5 weeks beginning on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.**

This will offer free drinks, snacks and home-made cake as well as creative activity boxes for children to work on and then take home. The café will 'pop-up' in Cam and at the Quarry Chapel on other mornings of the week.

Please do let me know if you can offer any help:

- to staff the café
- make cakes
- donate towards the fund-raising.

Canon Michael [mgcozens86@btinternet.com](mailto:mgcozens86@btinternet.com)

## Food Bank news and shopping list

Our local Food Bank saw need increase compared to the same period last year. Please continue to donate.

Uley village shop and both Tesco's and Sainsbury's have food donating points which can be used. The things that the Foodbank is particularly short of are: Tinned fruit, tinned custard, tinned rice pudding, tinned potatoes, crisps/snacks and toiletries. Please NO BAKED BEANS! Many thanks.

## 'Through the garden gate'

If you would like to take a virtual tour of some 'open gardens' in the Ewelme Benefice, follow this link:

[https://ewelmebenefice.co.uk/photos/gallery.php?gallery\\_id=3&pg=1](https://ewelmebenefice.co.uk/photos/gallery.php?gallery_id=3&pg=1)

If you would like to share some photos, please send them to Canon Michael [mgcozens86@btinternet.com](mailto:mgcozens86@btinternet.com)

## Gloucestershire Social Distancing Race Series supporting the Bishop's Feed the Five Thousand and Uley Church *Still time to take part today!*

The second race in this series is during the first week end of July the 4th & 5th – we had good support from the benefice for the first race – thank you so much – and now is the time to book for the second race of the series and loosen those muscles. This is the link:

<https://www.letsdothis.com/gb/e/gloucester-socialdistancing-race-series-187675> It should take you straight there, copy and paste this into Google or whatever you use, and there you are. The link to join the event is also on Ewelme Benefice website, you can just click on it there and it takes you straight to the right page. Please send this to anyone you know who likes walking or running as you can take part in it anywhere over the named week end. We hope Dursley Running Club will use this virtual race to replace two of their actual races which have been cancelled. Lock down may have eased but the need to support the vulnerable of all ages with wholesome food has not gone away. Thanks very much.

*Prue Vernon*

## Stewardship, Parish Giving Scheme, gifts and donations

**Very many thanks** to all members of our church community who have helped us financially by registering for the Parish Giving Scheme, increasing contributions through the Parish Giving Scheme, sending cheques to the treasurers or making bank transfers into our parish bank accounts. These acts of generosity are really, really appreciated.

Please visit our website for quick and tax efficient online ways of giving - <https://ewelmebenefice.co.uk/coronavirus/> .

You can also donate directly via on-line banking:

### Uley account:

Barclays 20-33-83 A/C 43042057  
Uley with Owlpen & Nympsfield PCC

Uley Community Shop will take donations in sealed envelope marked 'Uley Church'

### Dursley account:

Lloyds 30-98-29 A/C 02391588  
Dursley PCC