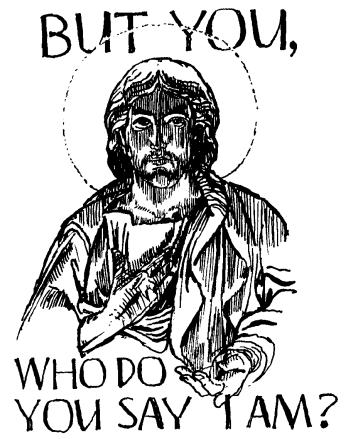


**SERVICE SHEET**  
**23rd August - Trinity 11**



**Canticle: The Song of Christ's Glory**

**At the name of Jesus,  
every knee should bow.**

**You, O Christ, were in the form of God:  
but did not cling to equality with God.**

**You emptied yourself taking the form of a servant:  
and were born in the likeness of men.**

**Being found in human form you humbled yourself:  
and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God has highly exalted you:  
and given you the name above every name,**

**that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow:  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth;**

**and every tongue confess that you are Lord:  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*Philippians 2.5-11*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Collect**

O God, you declare your almighty power  
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:  
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,  
that we, running the way of your commandments,  
may receive your gracious promises,  
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;  
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 for ever.

**Amen**

**New Testament**  
**Romans 12.1-8**

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

## **Psalm 124**

<sup>1</sup> If it had not been the LORD who was on our side  
—let Israel now say—

**<sup>2</sup> if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,  
when our enemies attacked us,**

<sup>3</sup> then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled against us;

**<sup>4</sup> then the flood would have swept us away,  
the torrent would have gone over us;**

<sup>5</sup> then over us would have gone  
the raging waters.

**<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD,  
who has not given us  
as prey to their teeth.**

<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird  
from the snare of the fowlers;  
the snare is broken,  
and we have escaped.

**<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## **Gospel Reading** **Matthew 16.13-20**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' <sup>14</sup> And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' <sup>15</sup> He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

## **Sermon**

At first glance, Paul's appeal to his audience to "present your bodies as a living sacrifice" as "your spiritual worship" might sound like he is demanding an esoteric or mystical kind of devotion. But a closer look reveals that Paul calls not for disembodied, but full-bodied worship. Full-bodied worship is worship that embraces every part of who and what we are – our minds and our bodies – our thoughts and emotions – our intentions and our will. Every part of us then, is to be presented as a living sacrifice to God. Now, that kind of language can cause us problems if we are not careful. When we think about sacrifices in worship, we often think

about killing things – animals in particular – and that was the way of much worship in ancient times – in the time when Paul is writing to the Christians in Rome. Every temple, every place of worship would have been the scene of this kind of sacrificial offering.

So, when Paul talks about a living sacrifice – he is already moving away from the practices of religion that most of the members of this new church in Rome would have been all too familiar with. Maybe they were so familiar with these ways of doing things, which were civic as well as religious, that resisting them makes up part of Paul's challenge not to conform to this world and its ways – but to the call and will of God.

We do not live in that age and the language of sacrifice has different associations for us. At its best we see sacrifice as something a person does for others out of love or devotion or duty – something that costs them – but is offered for the sake of other people. In recent months as we have been living in a changing world there are many people who have worked and lived in this sacrificial way – doing good for others – at some cost to themselves.

But I am not sure that this understanding of sacrifice really captures everything that Paul is holding out to us as a new way of life. There is a dynamic in his words which is more about a continuing process rather than significant single events of devotion and service. Perhaps we should then hear St Paul say that we present our whole selves to be a living offering – an offering that is constantly refreshed by the renewing of our minds as day by day we discern more deeply the will of God for ourselves, our church and our world. Our offering (rather than sacrifice) is our new life in Christ – not our death. It is constant offering – as close to us as breathing itself.

In Paul's way of thinking our bodies are expressions of ourselves and who we are – they are the Temple of the Holy Spirit – to be honoured, treasured and used properly. As God's children we are not disembodied holy souls – but embodied whole people called to live as such in the real world. But maybe there is more to it than that. Every author, artist, musician, craftsman, indeed anyone who is creative in any way – hopes to assemble a body of work. That body of work – paintings, books, music or whatever it may be – is an expression of who they are – it is made up of projections of their thoughts and feelings – inspired – moulded and re-presented – transformed into paint, words and sounds. Their body of work is part of them and very personal.

Anyone who creates in this way hopes that their work – their offering – will be well received – sometimes because it reflects the mood and feelings of the times but other times because it challenges and seeks to change the way things are seen and perceived.

An artist's body of work may be well received and bring fame and fortune but sometimes it is rejected and reviled because it does not conform to expectations or the way those in the know say the world should be.

The history of culture is full of stories of those who sacrificed themselves for their art – despite everything – convinced that they had something true to say and to share.

A later generation may turn again and see that what was being painfully offered was wonderful and worthy and right – even prophetic.

As we hear St Paul's words – it is as if he is calling us to offer not simply our bodies as spiritual worship – but our lives as a body of work – work in progress – transformed and changed by new inspiration and new understanding. It is a body of work that does not require a great artist but an ordinary person with a passionate commitment. It is a body of work that is made up of my words, my actions, my thoughts, and my intentions, my desires, my choices, the things and people I embrace and hold dear and the ways of living that I positively reject and turn from.

Because of God's gracious purposes that embrace us all – present your body of work, as a living offering – this is your and my spiritual worship, holy and acceptable to God.

And how will we know that our body of work – Christ transforming our lives – is true and worthy? Well, just like any artist, we cannot rely upon the verdict of critics or what the world might say. We are not to be conformed to that – though heaven knows it is hard not to be. The opinion of others – the standards of society – the accepted norms of behaviour – are difficult things to resist.

Paul offers us a different standard – humility in the face of the measure of faith. Any artist might hope for adulation and acclaim – awed crowds looking at a painting – a standing ovation at a concert. That is not the way for each of us as we create and offer the body of work which is our life. By the measure of faith, we look at ourselves with sober judgment – aware of what we offer and what is yet lacking. Humility and being assessed by a different measure are hard things. It was hard for the new Christians in Rome and it is hard for us now.

All around us are temptations to be measured by the standards of the age – by disposable wealth – by consumer choice – by career path – by education – by how much influence we have. Actually, not that much different from ancient Rome.

Humility and a sober assessment of our life offering – our body of work – might lead us to despair and dejection – its never going to be good enough – it will never be worthy.

But St Paul reminds us of two vitally important things for our new life in Christ.

Firstly, his exhortation to be humble arises from the grace given to him – given to us all. Paul is all too deeply aware of the grace of God in his life. By the measure of the world our achievements – our body of work – will never be enough. By the grace given to each of us by God's love and compassion – who we are and what we are is already counted as worthy, redeemed and saved. So then, what we offer throughout our lives, is not our bid in a great competition to see how far we can come and whether we might be called to the winners podium and the acceptance speech – no it is our heartfelt living offering in response to grace and love already received – already at work within us.

And the second thing is that Paul points us back to the fact that God does not call and redeem individuals alone – but people in a community. And here the body image is painted on a larger canvas – for we are all part of the body of Christ. Our body of work – our life's offering – is part of a greater body of work – all of us together – with different character and gifts given by grace so that we are indeed members one of another.

So as we strive to create our body of work – our life in Christ in the world – we are not working as it were in a lonely studio or in a cold attic room – we are much more like artists in a colony – working together – supporting each other – encouraging each other – together bringing liveliness, and animation to the life we share – the body of work we create together. So that one person's artistry is in holding the faith, another in ministering to those around, another in the art of teaching and sharing, another in generosity of word and action, yet another in diligent leadership and getting things done, and yet others in the art of patient and compassionate listening and others still in cheerfulness and a sense of humour.

With all these artists and all these gifts of grace just think what a body of work our offering together might be. Truly something holy and acceptable to God – the spiritual worship of our lives.

*Simon Baker*

## **FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

### **ST MICHAEL**

#### ***Those newly in need of prayer***

Chris Dickerson, Elizabeth Chapman, Claire Kendrick, Nick Rutter, John and Sonia Doidge, Jeyan Anketell.

#### ***Those in continuing special need of prayer:***

Anthony Staples aged 6, Audrey Egleston, Colin Eastwood, Yvonne Harper, Ian and Judith Watson, Alison Cox-Toplis, Julian & Wendy, Jamie, Gary and Denise, Sam Bassett, Mark Berry, Dorothy Clayton, Jo Cobb, Dottie Collins, Robert Harris, Bill Hill, James Knight, Marielouise Oliver, Arthur Palin, John Tipper, Sheila Vaughan, Renee Wellings, Felicity Woodfield

#### ***Those who have died***

Richard Keay

## **ST JOHN**

### ***Those who are ill and their carers:***

Pat Crowe, Jo Hearn, Ann Kinson, Allan Law

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord of all mercy,  
we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice  
which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace:  
by our communion  
keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel  
and preserve us from all sin;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

# CHURCH NOTICES

**A VERY WARM WELCOME BACK** to everyone here today.

## **AIDS TO WORSHIP**

- ~Large print orders of service & hymn books
- ~Hearing Loops at St Michael - Please set your hearing aid to 'T' to listen.
- ~Gluten-free wafers are available.

## **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH ROOF APPEAL.**

We urgently need money to repair the roof on the southside of the church. If you can donate please use the blue envelopes, fill in the front if you can gift aid and make all cheques payable to the 'PCC of St Michael and St Mary, Lichfield'. Please mark the envelope 'Church Roof'. This will really help the count team

Many thanks

*Brenda Liptrot*

## **WARNING**

If you receive an email from: **Revd Preb Simon Baker** and the email address is: [churchvicar8@gmail.com](mailto:churchvicar8@gmail.com)

***Please do not reply or open any attachments.***

I never use that title in any emails I send and this is not my email address. Please block the email address and everything sent from it to you should go into spam.

*Simon*

## **WORSHIP NEWS**

### **PLEASE REMEMBER TO...**

- *Wear a mask over your nose and mouth before you enter church*
- Sanitise your hands on the way in – sanitisers are available
- Keep a proper distance at all times
- Sit only in seats as indicated
- Leave the church as instructed by the clergy and do not stay in church for conversation
- Conversation may continue in the open space of the churchyard
- Take with you the Sunday service sheet when you go
- Be aware of others at all times
- Children are welcome but there will be no toys or activities provided

**FLOWERS AT ST MICHAEL'S** Now that we're back in church, if you would like to do the flowers, please sign the rota at the back of church. Flowers will be provided. *Diana*

**CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER** **St Michael's Lichfield** is open between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon's only.

**St John's at Wall** is open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10.00am to 4.00pm. In both churches there is provision for hand sanitization, cleaning and social distancing.

**WORSHIP BY ZOOM** will be on the first and third Sundays of each month. The next services are on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 6.00pm**

You can join the service from 5.45pm. The service will last about 40mins.

***If you have not had a link by Friday at 11am please contact the office***  
[office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk)

### **CHURCH CHARITY DONATIONS**

We have missed collecting for 3 of our charities, due to the church being closed for the last few months. The charities are Embrace the Middle East, Pathway and USPG. If you would like to donate to all or any of these charities, can I ask you to do so directly to them. You can find details of the charities online and their instructions regarding donations. If anyone has any problems with this please contact me on 01543 251863 or email me at [brendaliptrot@outlook.com](mailto:brendaliptrot@outlook.com) ( I will be away from 11<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August) We are intending to collect for WaterAid as usual at the Harvest Festival Service, using the white envelopes. Many thanks, *Brenda Liptrot*

## **OTHER NOTICES**

**ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY** is meeting on **Saturday September 5<sup>th</sup>, from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** We will be preparing the meadow for next year; doing clearance of vegetation from graves; and general maintenance work. We shall be observing Social Distancing and hygiene requirements. Refreshments will not be provided. Please bring your own food and drink. **Masks** do not need to be worn in the Churchyard, but they **must be worn in Church**. If you have not been to a Church Working Party Session before but would like to come along on September 5<sup>th</sup>, you will be very welcome. Please let me know and I will give you information about our procedures. I look forward to seeing you. *Ray Allen* 251654

**JAM JARS** If anyone has jam jars to spare could they leave them in a bag at the back of church with my name on and I could pick them up. Or I could collect, ring 255308. Thanks Maggie

**LICHFIELD FOOD BANK.** Thank you for your continuing support for Lichfield Foodbank. The latest needs are

- Tinned tuna
- Tinned vegetables
- Biscuits
- Tinned fruit

**MAGAZINE EDITOR** Would you consider becoming the new editor from January 2021? The role of editor is not an onerous task. **No IT skills required** as Angie puts together the magazine and formats it.

The tasks are

- encouraging people to write articles,
- coming up with ideas for new features,
- gently reminding the Ministry Team members when it is their turn to write the Reflection,
- finding a suitable quotation for the And finally.... feature;
- reading through the magazine before it is printed.

Please do consider whether this is something you could take on – maybe with a friend? I look forward to hearing from you, on 01543 252123 or at [dkbull053@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dkbull053@hotmail.co.uk)

*David Bull*

**BIBLE STUDY THE BOOK OF DANIEL-** Everyone is welcome to join the Zoom meeting on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30am** and listen to the members of the ministry team as they explain the history behind and meaning of the stories in this book. If you would like a link so that you can join in, please contact Angie in the office.

### **ENGLAND'S SAINTLY LANDSCAPE**

Trevor James has recently published his book "England's Saintly Landscape" and has made 20 copies available to St Michael's for sale, at £10, proceeds go into Church funds. To buy a copy of Trevor's excellent book please 'phone Lyn Shiel (01543/320437) for details.

# **PARISH DIARY**

## **Sunday 23rd August**

8:00am	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00am	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00am	Holy Communion	St John
11:30am	Private Prayer	St John

## **Monday 24th August**

8:15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
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## **Tuesday 25th August**

8:15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
2:00pm	Private Prayer	St Michael's

## **Wednesday 26th August**

9am	Magazine Distribution	St Michael's
	Day	
All day	Private Prayer	St John
8:15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
10.30am	Bible Study	Zoom

## **Thursday 27th August**

### **OFFICE CLOSED**

8:15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
2:00pm	Private Prayer	St Michael's

## **Friday 28th August**

8:15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
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## **Saturday 29th August**

## **Sunday 30th August**

8:00am	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00am	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00am	Holy Communion	St John
11:30am	Private Prayer	St John