

28th August

11th Sunday after Trinity

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.

Readings

Old Testament Jeremiah 2. 4-13.
 New Testament Hebrews 13. 1-8, 15-16.
 Gospel Luke 14. 1, 7-14.

Many churches have risen to the challenge of welcoming Ukrainian refugees. By the time you read this I hope we will have a family of five staying with us – visas permitting! We have been greatly helped by a support hub organised by the team at St. Peters in Hereford. We won't have the time to help our guests with the labyrinthine procedures of registration, school places and the like. Fortunately, being part of the group means we can provide what we can and others will help them settle in. A few weeks ago, some of the recently arrived guests reflected on the cultural differences they had encountered as they settled in. Notable was their bemusement about how English people say sorry all the time. Its true, we do! American friends find it odd as well. Ukrainians tend to be much more direct. Identifying these cultural differences reveals a lot about our different expectations. They can misinterpret our behaviour as insincere; we can interpret theirs as impolite. Both are misinterpretations, but clarifying these expectations is important. This plays out in every sphere of life: school, home, community and Church. So much conflict could be avoided if we had the courage to have honest conversations about the effect the behaviour of others has on us, particularly in an environment where we decide we aren't going to take offence. Jesus' disciples' expectations of what a messiah would look like were completely wrong. Much of his ministry was about putting them right. The expectations of our clergy have often been formed in a completely different environment to now. One deanery in our diocese has 7 stipendiary clergy. In 1961 there were 17! Clearly, the current generation can't do the things their predecessors did. Similarly, some clergy's

expectations of the people in the parishes may have been formed in a very different context to the multi-parish setting in which they now serve. Many of the relational problems that naturally emerge in any community, and especially in churches, trace back to this expectation mismatch. As we move forward as a diocese post-COVID these sorts of honest conversations will be vital to the health and well-being of the church. Listening to one another in order to understand rather than to respond will be a key element. Healthy communities are ones that identify conflict and move towards it to resolve it rather than avoid it and pretend it isn't there. I believe a church community that models handling disagreements well could be a very attractive one in a fragmented world like ours. +Richard

Services Next Sunday – 04th September – 12th Sunday after Trinity

Weston-under-Penyard	Mattins	11.15 a.m.
The Lea	Family Communion	9.30 a.m.
Hope Mansell	Parish Communion	9.00 a.m.
Aston Ingham	Evensong	6.30 p.m.
Linton	Holy Communion	11.00 a.m.
Upton Bishop	Informal Worship Service	10.30 a.m.

Forthcoming Services & Events

UPTON BISHOP have a BCP communion Service at 9.30 am on the first Wednesday of each month. A quiet midweek service. All welcome

Benefice Bible Study takes place on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 3.30 pm. For more info please email c.newton@btinternet.com

Please be aware that if you have any events you would like to advertise here, do please contact Debs directly (details below) and she will be pleased to include them.

Please pray for all who are sick, Joan Caton (*Lea*), Annette Howell (*WuP*),

Please pray for all who have died, John Powles (*WuP*).

Rev David Howell 01989 568736 email: revdavidhowell@btinternet.com

If you would like to receive this pew sheet via email, please email Debs

debsp parishsecretary@btinternet.com