

Sixth Sunday after Trinity
Sunday, 24th July 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

‘Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.’ (Luke 11: 9)

One of the difficult things about writing a newsletter such as this is that it is bit of a *‘one way street,’* in that I don’t benefit from an immediate response from my readers. Nonetheless, I do receive many positive comments about how much you value it, which is hugely encouraging. Thank you.

I’ve been wondering what sort of a week you have each had? Whether you enjoyed our short-lived heatwave or struggled as the thermometer rose to 38 degrees here in Winchester and how it affected your health and wellbeing. For my part, it was a varied week with a mixture of funerals, a baptism, a very emotional end of term school leavers’ service at Sparsholt primary school, all juggled around various services, meetings and weddings, with a mammogram for 60 year old women thrown in for good measure! All of these events have been rooted in prayer.

Some of you will know that I have been on rabbit-feeding duties over in Colden Common whilst my son and his partner are away on holiday. Having been badly scratched on my hand by one of the little darlings last weekend, I confess to having kept the newly named ‘killer bunnies’ very much at arms-length this week. I am grateful to some of you for helpful tips on how to help them cope with the heat. Thankfully, I can report that Gus and Winnie have survived my ministrations. I will gratefully relinquish my responsibilities tomorrow, when William and Charlotte return from Cyprus!



On Friday morning, during a service of Holy Communion at Signature Care home (formerly known as Sunrise), an elderly husband and wife began discussing what I was doing. No strangers to the Anglican liturgy, it became clear that the woman had difficulty remembering what the bread and wine we were sharing symbolised. She considered the use of wine as being excessively luxuriant and wondered why we couldn't share a cup of tea instead. I used the story of Mary and Martha from last week's Gospel reading to help her understand how Jesus asks us to sit at His feet to listen to His word, and then allow Him to feed us and teach us how to pray.



'Le Pater Noster' by James Tissot

The use of wine in our commemoration of the Lord's Supper reflects the fellowship and celebration of the feast at which Jesus first picked up the Passover cup and instructed the disciples to remember Him by sharing bread and wine, and becomes for us a symbol of our celebration of the victory of Christ won at the cross. When the disciples asked Jesus to help them pray, He taught them to revere God as our heavenly Father above all things and to seek His help in providing us with all our physical and spiritual needs: *'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.'*

Jesus also showed them how to seek God's guidance in the way we treat each other – forgiving each other for the things we do against God's kingdom values. What we learn is that prayer is what happens when we bring our need to God's love in faith. And when we pray together in praise and worship of our loving Father, He gives us His beloved Son in bread and wine, to sustain us for eternity.

Yours, in the generous love of Christ,

Jax

Revd Jax Machin, Rector, The Downs Benefice

Collect Prayer for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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.



Luke 11:1-13 - Jesus' Teaching on Prayer

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.'

Then Jesus said to them, 'Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

'Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

Schedule of Services

Now that all national Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted, it is no longer necessary to book seats in our parishes for services. Neither is it mandatory for you to wear masks in church. However, Coronavirus is still very much with us. There are a number of people in our villages with it at present, so we are encouraging people to observe social distancing measures.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Ch</i>	<i>Cr</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Sp</i>	<i>Wh</i>
<i>24th July</i>			Morning Worship	Morning Worship	8am – Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>27th July</i>			Mid-week Holy Communion		
<i>31st July</i>		5 th Sunday Benefice Holy Communion			
<i>7th August</i>	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	4pm - Café Church		
<i>14th August</i>			Holy Communion		Morning Worship
<i>21st August</i>	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	6pm – Peace & Wholeness	8am – Holy Communion (BCP)	
<i>24th August</i>			Mid-week Holy Communion		
<i>28th August</i>			Morning Worship	Morning Worship	8am – Holy Communion (BCP)