

**First Sunday after Trinity  
Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

*Dear All,*

*Revd Jax is on leave this week so Linda Hodgson has very kindly allowed us to use her Reflection from last Tuesday's Morning Prayer.*

**A Reflection from Linda Hodgson – 1/6/21**

To set the scene ... some words from a Girl Guide song ...

God has created a new day  
Silver and green and gold  
Live that the sunset may find us  
Worthy His gifts to hold.

We are surrounded, amazed and richly blessed by the natural world. God's world. The great designer, and the greatest artist is opening 'windows of wonder' to us every day, especially at this time of year.

The only gift that is greater than beauty is our awareness of it. When we get to heaven we won't be looking through windows, we'll be out in it!

Our gardens are coming alive now. Jesus said, 'I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener.' He goes on to say, 'take care to live in me, and let me live in you, for a branch can't produce fruit when severed from the vine, nor can you be fruitful apart from me.'

It is a wonderful thought that God the gardener is helping us to grow. We are like tender plants, needing care and support so that over time we will produce the fruit of the Spirit. Saint Paul gave us a list of the fruit in Galatians 5. To remind us, these recognisable gifts are: LOVE; JOY; PEACE; PATIENCE; KINDNESS; GENEROSITY; FAITHFULNESS; GENTLENESS and SELF-CONTROL.

If God is the gardener, I feel as we tend our gardens we can develop these for God. We can feel His LOVE when we step out into His wonderful world and breathe the fresh air.

We have His JOY and PEACE as our efforts come to fruition.

Gardening teaches us PATIENCE – as germination takes time.

We develop KINDNESS by supporting and feeding our plants.

Our GENEROSITY makes a big difference, especially for tomatoes!

Our FAITHFULNESS in watering is essential.

The GENTLENESS of unexpected scent from roses and sweet peas is a bonus only God can provide.

And how about SELF-CONTROL? It's very easy to get carried away by the joy and results of gardening. Then a stiff back will remind us we are made to rest as well!

The 'wilding' of gardens is becoming more relevant nowadays. Our great Creator is holding us all to account as climate change and pollution affects the whole world. We can thank God for our mainly gentle climate that allows us to enjoy our gardens.

But action and wisdom are overdue to look after God's world as we should.

May God help food provision and water aid for our brothers and sisters that need it badly. Our forests and oceans are being damaged and animals are becoming extinct.

We are made to praise God and glorify Him.

Thank you God for letting us grow things!

The 'lilies of the field' that come from small seeds or dry bulbs, the vegetables and soft fruit we enjoy.

The way You provide for our bread and honey.

Help us to look after and appreciate Your amazing world with joy.

I'd like to end with a verse of a traditional hymn.

Give me joy in my heart, keep my praising.

Give me joy in my heart, I pray.

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.

Keep me praising till the break of day.

### **A Prayer from Sally Wesley for our Bishops**

Gracious God, fountain of all wisdom, we pray for all Christian people and for all who teach and guard the faith, particularly Jax, grant her rest and relaxation as she has a week's holiday. We pray particularly for our Trinity of Bishops: Give strength to Bishop Debbie in her temporary role as Bishop of Winchester, give wisdom to Bishop Tim who has stepped back from his role for the next six weeks to focus on discussions about future leadership and governance reform in the diocese, and give guidance to Bishop David in his search for the way ahead. May the word of Christ dwell richly in our hearts and knit us together in the bond of your love.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

## Schedule of Services

*All services are at 10am.*

*Please contact the Benefice Office on 01962 880 845 or [office@downsbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@downsbenefice.org.uk) to book a place at any of these services.*

*Please remember to wear masks.*

Date	Chilbolton	Crawley	Littleton	Sparsholt	Wherwell
6 June	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer			
13 June				Holy Communion	Morning Prayer
20 June	Holy Communion		Morning Prayer		
23 June			Midweek Holy Communion		
27 June		Holy Communion			

### Collect Prayer for the First Sunday after Trinity

O God,  
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers  
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
we may please you both in will and deed;  
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.

## **Mark 3: 20-end (NRSV)**

### **Jesus and Beelzebul**

Then he went home; and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

### **The True Kindred of Jesus**

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”