

Sunday 26th October 2025

Last Sunday after Trinity

10.00 a.m. Church Family Communion

6.00 p.m. Deanery Confirmation Service, St John's Stoke

Collect for Today

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Service Readings

Jeremiah 14:7-10,19-end (*p.726*); 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 (*p.211*) and
Luke 18:9-14 (*p.78*)

Please pray for

... Sylvia Holdsworth, Mark & Jan Knott, Jenny Powell and Becki & Jonathan Salmon.

... the family and friends of Joyce Andrews who died on 14th October, aged 82.

... the family and friends of George Richie, Raymond George and John Finch whose anniversary of death is at this.

... those who live and work in Abbots Close, Agraria Road and Alresford Road.

... the Koens family in Papua New Guinea supporting the work of Bible translation through vehicle maintenance, teaching, missionary care.

Post Communion Prayer

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Financial Giving

We take a collection during our services. If you don't give regularly by standing order or the envelope scheme, please put your donation in the bag, tap the card reader on your way out, or use the QR code on the back of this news-sheet. Thank you.

Dear Friends

Our Gospel reading for this morning is a familiar one – Jesus’ parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14). Jesus tells the parable to a group of people who were confident of their own righteousness, and who looked down on everyone else. In today’s terms they might be thought of as ‘goody goodies’.

Jesus’ parable describes two men who go up to the temple in Jerusalem to pray. The first is a Pharisee, a religious leader; and he prays confidently, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income’. There’s a real smugness about this man; and maybe Jesus is giving us a caricature to laugh at. He stands apart from everyone else, maybe indicating that he doesn’t want to be contaminated by the riff raff around him.

The second character, maybe also a caricature, is a tax collector – or possibly a toll collector. Toll collectors were notorious for extorting money and skimming off a profit for themselves; and this man may have done so. He stands far off, and can’t even raise his eyes. He beats his breast and prays, ‘God be merciful to me, a sinner’. The two characters couldn’t be more different. And Jesus concludes, ‘I tell you, this man (the tax collector) went home justified...for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted’.

In our service this morning we’ll be considering what it means to ‘humble ourselves’ before God, and what a life of humility might look like.

Beverly

Mission Focus for October: Church Mission Society (CMS)

This month’s focus is the 200+ year old CMS, whose focus continues to be sharing the hope of Jesus ‘at the edges’, including ‘the edges’ of: existing church, society, our comfort zones and at the margins that are often ‘written off’, both in the UK and overseas. CMS recognise ‘God is already at work in these spaces and our task is to join in’. To support them through prayer, fundraising, or taking part in projects, visit churchmissionsociety.org, or speak to a member of the All Saints’ Mission Vision Group.

Notices

Deanery Confirmation Service, TODAY at 6pm at St John's Stoke: Please come and support Ivy as she takes this step of faith.

Note: there will be no Tea Time Church today.

Bonfire & Fireworks: This very popular event will be held on Saturday 8th November at 6pm. We're now just about sold out! If you haven't yet got a ticket, see Trish as she will be keeping a waiting list for any returned tickets.

Thank you to everyone who came along on Saturday morning to help in the orchard or in and around the church. It's amazing what we can get done with your help!

All Saints' Patronal Festival NEXT Sunday 2nd November:

- ✝ At our 10am Café-style Altogether Worship service we'll be remembering the Saints of old and thinking about living as disciples of Jesus today.
- ✝ At 6pm our choir will be leading us in a special Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day. There will be refreshments after the service.

Remembrance Sunday 9th November:

- 🕒 At 10am, we'll be welcoming our uniformed organisations to join us in worship. We'll be remembering those who gave their lives for the freedoms that we enjoy today. There will be a cake sale afterwards in support of The Royal British Legion.
- 🕒 At 4pm we'll be holding a Service of Thanksgiving for the Bereaved. At this service we remember those we love but no longer see. Please give names of those to be remembered to Trish.

Joyce Andrews: Joyce's funeral will be held here at All Saints on Tuesday 11th November at 11am, followed by a burial at Stoke New Cemetery.

New Safeguarding email address: Julie has a new email address for safeguarding matters at All Saints. Please could you update your contact list with this new address: safeguarding@allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk

Diary for the Coming Week

Morning prayer Mon, Tues and Weds 9.15am in the Reading Room and on Zoom. Thurs Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Reading Room.

Mon 27th Barnabas Group, 26 Manor Way, 4.00pm
Weds 29th Eco Team Meeting, Office, 8.30am
Thurs 30th Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am
Men's Group 'Exploring the Way', 48 Elmside, 8.00pm
Sat 1st Band Practice, Church, 10.00am
Sun 2nd *All Saints' Patronal Festival*
Holy Communion, Reading Room, 8.00am
Café-Style Altogether Worship, 10.00am
Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day, 6.00pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 27th Ps. 98, 2 Chronicles 26:1-21, John 13:1-11
Tues 28th Ps. 116, Isaiah 45:18-end, Luke 6:12-16
Weds 29th Ps. 111, 2 Chronicles 29:1-19, John 13:21-30
Thurs 30th Ps. 115, 2 Chronicles 29:20-end, John 13:31-end
Fri 31st Ps. 139, 2 Chronicles 30, John 14:1-14
Sat 1st Ps. 15, Isaiah 35, Luke 9:18-27

Service Readings for Sunday 2nd November: 4th before Advent

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Ephesians 1:11-end and Luke 6:20-31

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