



Please share this bulletin as far and wide as you can – thank you

16th August 2020 – Tenth Sunday after Trinity



View from a Rectory

Welcome to this week's edition of the Bulletin. As Allison is enjoying her well-deserved holiday, there is no View from a Vicarage this week; instead Bishop Martin Gorick has very kindly provided his View from a Rectory. In it he reflects on rural church life and his journey to the Diocese of Worcester.

Its good to be with you here in Bredon and in the villages, churches and communities around the hill. We moved to the empty Rectory in June, just as the lockdown began to ease. In March we had been expecting to move into a house in the north of the diocese, but Covid changed everything and that fell through at the last minute. We are very grateful to the people in Bredon who have made us very welcome.

As Bishop of Dudley people expect that I will need to travel there every day to work. Despite the title I am Suffragan Bishop for the whole Diocese of Worcester, so minister in every part of Worcestershire as well as in Dudley itself. I have a particular concern for the urban north of the diocese of course, which though small in area contains over 40% of the diocesan population, and many of its more deprived communities. Rural areas also face challenges of their own, not least the number of historic church buildings, often in small villages. They are some of our greatest treasures of course, need the wider community to support their upkeep, and make particular demands on clergy working across many different parishes, as our priest Allison Davies does here. I'm glad to say the wheels are just beginning to turn again on appointments, and a second stipendiary priest will be appointed to work with Allison across the Bredon Hill group of parishes, while living in the house that the diocese own in Elmley Castle. I hope over time they will be joined by people from these hill parishes who themselves discern a call to voluntary ministry as Authorised or Licensed Lay Ministers, or being trained and ordained as locally deployed clergy. The church is more than its clergy and more than its buildings. The word Church comes from Ecclesia which means 'the gathering'. In other words the church is the people. It is the people of God in every age who make up the church. When the church buildings had to close during Lockdown the church itself didn't close. It was found in homes, sharing in daily prayers, in the community taking round provisions to shielding neighbours, in phone calls to the isolated, in

parents sitting down with their children and learning about Jesus together. We rediscovered church at home and church amongst neighbours, where faith can best be lived out and explored together.

I'm joined in Bredon Rectory by my wife Katharine. She is the Lead Teacher for Visually Impaired Children in Oxfordshire, leading a team of teachers and others who work with over 200 children who are blind and visually impaired. It is demanding work though at least commuting has not been a problem during lockdown. Katharine and I have been married for 35 years now and we have three children. Sam lives with his wife Claire in Chicago, where they moved earlier this year. Lydia is a teacher in central London and sometimes comes to stay with us in the holidays. Anna has just finished a degree in Arabic and French at Durham University, doing her finals online from our living room. Its been lovely to have her with us since lockdown began, though no doubt she would rather be with university friends, or starting a job. These are challenging times indeed for all children and young people as things continually seem to be put 'on hold'.

Before coming to be a Bishop in this diocese I worked as Archdeacon of Oxford, based at the Cathedral in that city. Prior to that I had been a Vicar in Stratford-upon-Avon and surrounding villages and before that in Smethwick near Birmingham, following a chaplaincy in Oxford and a curacy in the north east. Katharine and I are used to moving but never find it easy to leave behind people and places where we have come to feel at home. I'm very grateful for the welcome Allison and all of you have given us in Bredon and around the hill. I hope I can give some service in the churches here when I have a free Sunday, and get to meet many of you over the coming months. We know we won't be here forever, but for now at least its good to have found a place to call home once again.

**The Rt Revd Martin Gorick
Bishop of Dudley**



**Principal service based on Holy Communion for the Tenth Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 16th August 2020**

Collect

LET thy merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of thy humble servants;

and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12.1-11

CONCERNING spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed; and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God, who worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues. But all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Reading: St. Matthew 15. 21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

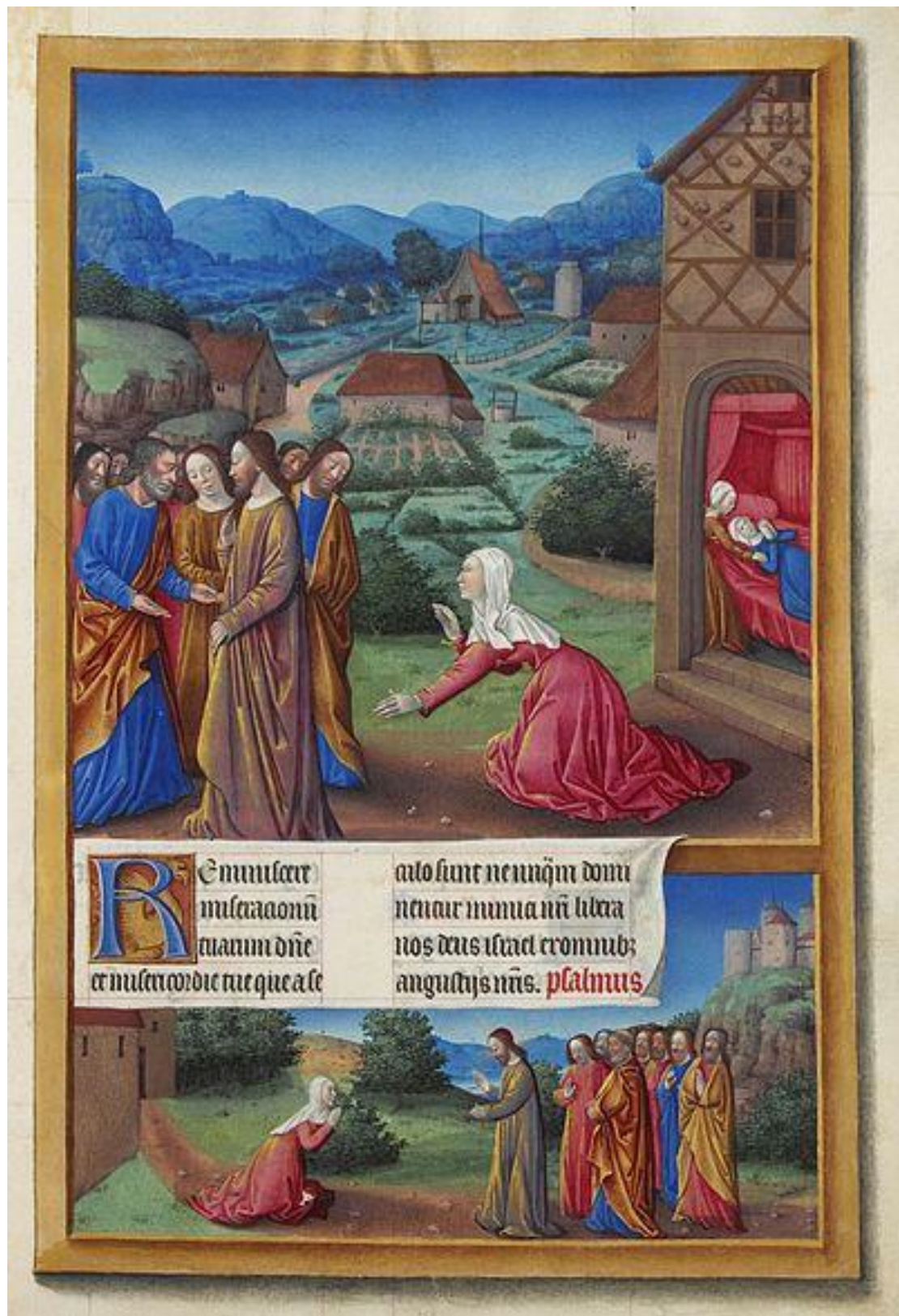
Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you:

Look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wanted from the way of life; Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

Reflection for the Tenth Sunday after Trinity 2020
Sunday 16th August by Irena Brewis



Jesus Exorcising the Canaanite Woman's Daughter

Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry Folio 164r

Jesus exorcising the Canaanite woman's daughter

Matthew 15: 21-28

In the beginning of chapter 15 we learn that the Pharisees had come out of Jerusalem to confront Jesus over his failure to obey all their many rulings on the Law to the letter. Jesus essentially tells them that what is important is the intention, what comes from the heart. Jesus then moves on, leaves the lands of the Israelites and passes on to the lands of the Canaanites.

We learn some of the long and bitter history between these two peoples in several books of the Old Testament. In Chapter 7 of Deuteronomy, for example, God commands the Canaanites to be killed, and in the Book of Joshua details are given of how these commands were carried out. In Matthew's day the Israelites considered the Canaanites to be thoroughly pagan and corrupt. Their presence in the land was felt to be a strong threat to the purity of Israel's religion and morality, so there was a long history of spiritual and military conflict between these two peoples.

The picture you can see is taken from 'Les Très Riches Heures' of the Duc de Berry, and illuminated mainly by the Limbourg brothers in 1412-16; a Book of Hours, roughly the size of an A4 sheet of paper, used as an aid to prayer and meditation. Painted in two parts, it depicts two aspects of the story at the same time as giving the whole a sense of movement.

Looking at the lower section first, what can we see? In the background the city of Jerusalem stands proudly on its high escarpment. Looking behind the figure of Jesus the Sea of Galilee can clearly be seen. And what of the people? You'll notice that the colours of the land immediately behind them are dark, signalling a separation from Jerusalem – we are now in the land of the Canaanites. Jesus and his group of friends have their backs to the lands of Israel, they are now in foreign parts, as it were, walking along, talking and no doubt commenting on their discussions with the Pharisees earlier in the chapter. Suddenly they notice the Canaanite woman on the path in front of them. She makes quite, quite sure that she is noticed. Instead of walking humbly by, eyes lowered, with a possible greeting in passing, she throws herself to her knees as one does to a king, and loudly greets Jesus with the words: *'Lord, son of David, have mercy on me'*. She knows He is not just some itinerant preacher and healer but the son of David, a King. Her words are significant, given Matthew's description of her as a Canaanite. She believes He is the promised Messiah; but if that is true, then He is also to her a Jewish King. As such, He is sovereign over her and her land, and all she can do is cry for mercy. Her words open the old historic wounds, but she is desperate for her daughter, and so would cry out for mercy from the visiting Jewish king.

Moving on to the upper picture, we see the daughter at home in bed, obviously ill and being watched over by a maid. On the pathway Jesus has turned his back on the woman, clearly indicating that he has no wish to speak to her. The disciples are muttering amongst themselves, they are not happy about her following them. The right-hand most disciple is certainly glowering at her in a threatening way and the one in blue to the left of Jesus is clearly arguing that they have nothing to do with her – she is foreign, other and, worse still, a Canaanite. *'Send her away'*, was their advice. But the woman is desperate – look at her hands – they are almost arguing for her. Jesus is putting her off, reluctant to grant her request, telling her that the children of Israel need to be fed first, that after all is his mission. Nevertheless, she believes Jesus will have more than enough power left over from what Israel does not need or want and Jesus finally responds to such striking faith and heals her daughter.

The basic theme of the passage is that Christ went into Gentile territory and did this miracle for a Gentile woman who had greater faith than the Jews who were rejecting and challenging Jesus' claims. It teaches us about the grace of our Lord, about faith of people who are in need, and about the coming of the kingdom. Salvation is there for simply everyone, Jew and Gentile alike.

Intercessions for the Tenth Sunday after Trinity by Revd Nancy Murray Peters



Loving God, we come to you in humility and love and offer our prayers in the knowledge that you are with us and hear us.

Lord, help us to discern your will and become true disciples who will travel the road that you want us to follow.

Help us to recognise and understand the needs of those around us, and offer practical and spiritual help. All that we are and all that we possess you have given us and so we offer ourselves to help build your kingdom in our communities

Amen

Lord God, hear us as we pray for those who bear the responsibility of leadership among the nations of the world.

Give them wisdom to know your will, regard for your laws and respect for human rights;
That they may seek to lead all people in the paths of truth, freedom and peace.

We pray for the people of Lebanon that they can be supported in their hour of need. That leaders throughout the world will react generously to calls for aid and help rebuild the lives of people whose lives are in crisis. **Amen**

We pray for all families.

We celebrate the love and support that family members can give each other and we pray that you will support and guide those who are struggling in relationships at this time.

Amen

Father, guide us that we may be more sensitive to our neighbours needs;

The need of the old to know they are wanted,
The need of the young to know they are listened to,
The need of all people to know they are of value.

We pray for all those who are lonely and face the days ahead without the company of family or friends. Help us to identify their needs and offer companionship.

Help them to know that you are always their friend and you are with them always. **Amen**

Jesus our healer,

We place into your hands those who are sick.

Ease their pain and be present through the support of family and friends and the care offered by all those in the medical profession.

Fill them with the warmth of your love and may they know the calm touch of the Holy Spirit in the days when life is a struggle. **Amen**

Loving God, we pray for those who are confronted by the sadness, ambiguity and confusion of mental illness, and for those upon whom they depend for attention and compassionate care. Look with mercy on all whose afflictions bring them weakness, distress, confusion or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give to them understanding helpers and the willingness to accept help. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Welcome Lord, into your calm and peaceful kingdom those who have departed this life to be with you. Receive them in your infinite tenderness and give them peace everlasting. **Amen**



Please pray for the ill and isolated, hospital and medical research staff, all those working on the frontline and those who have died. We pray for all whose anniversary of death falls at this time and for all who have been bereaved.

Those on the frontline: Alison Herbert a nurse who has been working with the DART (Disaster and Relief Team) and the Mercy Ships in Italy

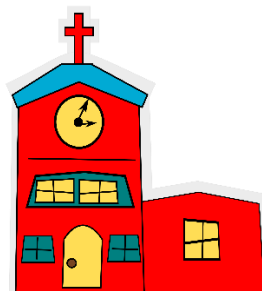
Those who are sick: Simon Collett

Those in residential care: Barbara Milton

Those who have died and their families: Jon Doney, Barbara Howell, John Bennett, Charles Bigland-Gibbons, John Bolton, Arthur Ore, Joan Green, Brian Druce, Pamela Law

Anniversary of a death: Please pray for the family of Deborah Chambers whose first anniversary was on the 14th August. We remember in our prayers her husband Adam, daughters Grace and Faith and her parents Angela and John Lancelot.

Please also pray for Gillian Martin who lost her partner Tony Manser on the 23rd August last year.



Church and Village News

As our churches begin to open and events are planned it would be useful to keep everyone informed. If you have any details that you would like to share within the Bulletin, please email us at eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com

Reopening the Bredon Hill Group of Churches for Public Worship

Date	Church	Time	Minister
16 th Aug	St Mary's, Elmley Castle	9.00am	Canon Roger Spiller
	St Giles', Bredon	10.30am	Reverend Doug Chaplin
23 rd Aug	St Faith's, Overbury	9.00am	Reverend Allison Davies
	Holy Trinity, Eckington	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
30 th Aug	St Giles', Bredon (5 th Sunday)	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
6 th Sept	St Giles', Bredon	9.00am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St Mary's, Elmley Castle	10.30am	Canon Roger Spiller
13 th Sept	Holy Trinity, Eckington	9.00am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St Barbara's, Ashton Under Hill	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
20 th Sept	St Mary's, Elmley Castle	9.00am	tbc
	St Giles', Bredon	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
27 th Sept	St Faith's, Overbury	9.00am	Reverend Catherine Lack
	Holy Trinity, Eckington	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies



COVID-19 Advice on Face Coverings from the Church of England

Q. Do I have to wear a face covering in a church building?

A reminder that from the 8th August 2020, that the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all places of public worship unless an exemption applies

For more information go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

The Church of England guidance on wearing face coverings in places of public worship and more information on exemptions can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/COVID%2019%20advice%20on%20face%20coverings%20v3.0.pdf>

News from the Diocese

Prayers and diocesan news can be found at www.cofe-worcester.org.uk



Join the Diocese for More Open Conversations

Following on from the meetings held earlier in the year; the Diocese has announced that it will be holding further Open Conversation meetings in September to explore what a healthy and sustainable church might look like in the future.

This time the meetings will be held via Zoom, although there will be an opportunity to participate for those unable to use Zoom. More details can be found at <http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/open-conversations>

Spot the Difference



Christian Church Calendar Liturgical Year

X F N N H V L G T K K K S L
J Q O T B L E D Q G M A T T
B R L R K P N J O K M R N S
T P X D D Y T O R T Y N Z O
R T R D F I D H S R B R T C
R N K N C F N I D K C V W E
K E J M R N R A L G G K R T
V V T I Z H V X R L K M W N
F D D S C K F R D Y T F V E
M A F F A K K V M B T R N P
Y R K K W E P X D Y T I T B
M B M M E P I P H A N Y M F
G H K L X V Q L T H T T G E
Y A D S R U H T Y D N U A M

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Advent
Christmas
Easter
Epiphany
Good Friday
Lent
Maundy Thursday
Ordinary Time
Pentecost

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