

PARISH NEWS / EVENTS

DEAN'S VISIT

The Very Reverend Nicholas Papadopoulos, Dean of Salisbury, will give a TALK on **9th September** "**Eye Witness Stories from Israel-Palestine**"
Venue: St Mary's Church, South St. at 7pm.

BOOK SIGNING

Come and join us for a Book Signing Event with coffee & cake at Good Books on **11th September** 10am-1pm when **Rev Kate Kay** will be promoting the books she has written, which include a variety of Bible Study and reflective titles such as 'Teach us to Pray' and 'What is Spirituality?' *James Craddock*

FUN QUIZ at St Swithun's Friday **20th Sept.** Doors open 6.30pm. Quiz starts 7pm. Teams of 6 £5 p.p. (cash) Please book table **07741457505**

ST MARY'S CHURCH BRIDPORT

Saturday **21st Sept** 10.30am-12.30pm **Coffee & cake**

PIANO RECITALS SATURDAY 12 OCT

Starting 10.30am at St Swithun's Church, Book through Charles 07814 388327. Informal, so come and play or just listen, enjoy tea, coffee and cake!

1924 FIRST FULL PEAL TO BE REPEATED

The **Dorset Ringers** will ring a full peal from 10am (3 hours) on Saturday **12th October**, at St Mary's Church Bridport - same peal as the first full peal rung on the (new) bells in 1924.

NURDLE HUNT



SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Come and support Wild & Messy Church with their Eco-church contribution preventing plastic getting into our oceans. Participants will take the bus to Charmouth Beach for various activities, including a Nurdle Hunt plus a picnic that will be free of single-use plastic. All are welcome. It is important that we know *who* is coming in advance so if you'd like to join us on the day / sponsor our running costs, please speak to Janet Robinson 07913549946 or Lorna Johnson 07501408221.

(Children must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult)

8th September 2024

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

PARISH NEWS



Greetings from Bridport's worshipping community

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Many years ago, a shoe company sent one of its salespeople to a faraway country to start a business. After a few months he sent back the message: "Coming home, nobody wears shoes here." The same company sent another salesperson to the same backward country in his place. After a few months she wrote to the home office this note: "Send more order forms – nobody wears shoes here." The second salesperson saw the opportunity in her situation – not the difficulty – and she believed in her product. And because of that she succeeded where the first salesperson failed.

If we believe – even a little – even the smallest amount – then we are on the right track. It's why we need each other – the encouragement of friends, people who will help us keep going when all looks lost. That's an image of faith, knowing we can't do everything ourselves. It's why so often those who feel faithless find themselves uttering a prayer in times of great need. Like the woman in the gospel who told Jesus that all she needed was the crumbs from the table. Just a little for her was more than enough. That crumb of faith is all it takes. Too many of us look at ourselves instead of God. We look at ourselves and we say – I can't do it. I am not strong enough, wise enough or loving enough. I do not have the money, the power, or the faith to succeed at what I am doing. We have all met people who have lived through very difficult times, and no doubt many of us have looked at them and thought, they must have had great faith to come out of their tribulations as well as they have. We may even have said to them – with respect and admiration: "I don't think I could have faced what you have faced. Your faith must be very great." I have heard this said to people, and I have heard the answer that they normally make. They reply almost always with words like these: "My faith is no greater than anyone else's. I just didn't know what I had until I needed it. God helped me, if it wasn't for him, I wouldn't have made it. If it wasn't for the people around me, I couldn't have done it." Haven't you heard this kind of thing yourselves? Isn't it one of those occasions when we may have said to ourselves: "I wish I had a faith like theirs"? I suppose what I am saying to you and to me is not – "have more faith" – but rather – "work with the faith that you already have".

When we start acting in faith, the very first thing we discover is that a little is a lot.

Canon Deb Smith

COLLECT

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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.

(or)
Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS

James 2 : 1 – 10, 14 – 17 *Warning against partiality*
My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

..... *Faith without works is dead*
What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Mark 7 : 24 – end *The Syrophenician woman's faith*
From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there.

Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

..... *Jesus cures a deaf man*
Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

Psalm 125 *The Security of God's People: A Song of Ascents.*
Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides for ever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time on and for evermore.

For the sceptre of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, so that the righteous may not stretch out their hands to do wrong. Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts. But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways the Lord will lead away with evildoers. Peace be upon Israel!

COMPLINE AT HOME

Tuesdays + Thursdays @ 8pm – request ZOOM link from nigelg8@gmail.com

CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAY BRIDPORT

Second Tuesday of the month. Next one is **10th September 6pm** till 7pm (note earlier time!)

ALPHA COURSE

Our Parish **Alpha Course** starts **11th Sept**. To sign up / any questions, please contact Revd Cally Burch: pioneervicar@parishofbridport.org
An opportunity to engage in discussions and be transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. *Venue will be supplied to those who sign up.*

PRAYER TIME

Open PARISH PRAYER organised by Revd Cally Burch and Revd John Rees, **first & third Thurs** of the month, 3.30pm-4.30pm - will rotate in churches.