

Good Morning Everyone,

Here is your Reflection for today, provided by Matt along with our new Wednesday Weekly News section.

Daily Update Daily Update - October 21st

Let's continue to spend time reflecting on God's word in prayerful quiet today, remembering God's faithfulness to us in his word and in his Spirit.

Pause

As I enter prayer now,

I pause to be still;

to breathe slowly;

to re-centre my scattered senses

upon the presence of God.

Rejoice

I rejoice in God's voice today, reminding myself of all that he calls me to be with the ancient words of all God's people in Psalm 98

Sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvellous things;

his right hand and his holy arm

have worked salvation for him.

The Lord has made his salvation known

and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love

and his faithfulness to Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen

the salvation of our God.

Luke 12:39-48

Union Army Major General John Sedgwick was killed by a sharpshooter at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House on May 9, 1864, during the American Civil War. He is unfortunately remembered for his last words, while encouraging his men under fire: "They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance...." An otherwise diligent and popular General, his unfortunate example reminds us about awareness and attention. But while he was concerned for his soldiers, he neglected his own safety.

Just because something can't be seen, does not mean it has no impact on how we

live.

Jesus warns his followers to pay close attention to what they have been given to do. Even when it appears God, the master in this parable, is not around. The distractions of the world and the ongoing demand of perseverance will always act against us being the people he calls us to be. The servant requires patience and attention to look after what they have been given to do. It is part of their role. But when the master is 'not there', we realise how tempting it is to sit back and let things happen at the moment, and blame others when we have little influence or control of events or what we can do. I wonder if because we have missed church, that the Lord does not seem to be there. Likewise, we have spent a long time around the same objects and people, with little opportunity for a change. Familiarity they say, breeds contempt. But, pay attention. How we live with what we have is still important and speaks volumes about how we see the world, its purpose and that we have a part in it. What we have comes from God. It is a sign he has not forgotten us, given to look after us, even if we have forgotten him! Remember Jesus' words that even the flowers of the field surpassed Solomon's glory! We have been looked after and are being looked after and will continue to be looked after. How are we cherishing, using the gifts he has given us? The promises in his word, his mercies day by day, the things we need, the knowledge we are loved and more all these are gifts from God, not to be set aside, but brought out for their proper use.

Our part in God's kingdom is to be like a servant, to be attentive. This seems a tall order, but Jesus' encouragement reminds us that what we do in this life can matter in the next when we pay attention to what happens around us. It demonstrates and witnesses to the love we have for God and for one another.

Yielding prayer

It may be helpful to think about the things you may have overlooked, phone calls, letters to a friend or neighbour far away. Likewise, we can give thanks for the blessings and kindnesses we have received. How can the way we use our resources be of service to God and blessing to others?

Father help me to live this day to the full, being true to you in every way.

Jesus help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet

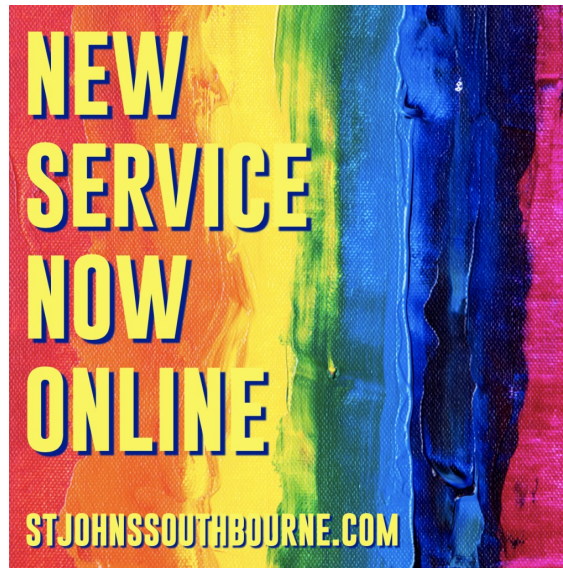
Spirit, help me to seek the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.

Amen

Wednesday Weekly News

Matt will be on Annual Leave next week. If you need to get in touch urgently, please call 01243 375576.

Sunday Services



Please email me at admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com if you would like to come to any Church services.

The cut-off date for booking for each week's service is the Wednesday before.

If you are unable to attend a Sunday service that you have booked, email the admin address of phone 01243 375576.

Have you got flu-like symptoms? Please don't attend Church.

News from Richard & Kim

Family Step Together is a weekly service for families as bubbles to explore and build faith together. Family Step Together launched in August with a closer look at biblical HOPE and since has covered the topics found in Romans 15:13 May the God of HOPE fill you with all JOY and PEACE as you TRUST in Him, that you might overflow with HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit. Each service uses games, prayer, worship, bible study, and fellowship to equip families live out their faith together as well as being a environment in which new faith can be explored. We have enjoyed good enough weather out on the lawn but as winter is fast approaching we are making plans to continue inside. If you would like to come and worship at the family service or would like to journey with families in a supporting role contact Kim.

Food Boxes

Some of you will be aware that during lockdown we supported individuals, couples and families with a weekly food box supported by UK Harvest, FareShare, Foodbank and an army of volunteers from St John's and the community of Southbourne.

Jane Inglis and Sue McNeil have the accurate numbers but roughly an increasing number up to 52 food parcels were delivered each week for a duration of about 24 weeks.

The scheme blessed so many people but we had to make a decision about how and when to end it. We decided to run it through the summer holidays and as shops were open and restrictions were lifting September seemed a natural cut off point. However, leading up to the closure, we identified that a few households would need ongoing support and therefore, in connection with the Foodbank, we delivered an October food box, with further plans to provide a Christmas box at the end of November.

If you would like to contribute towards the Christmas boxes, please email Jane@inglis3.org

Street Prayer topics for Tuesday 27th October 2020. (9.30 to 10.15 am)

Slipper Road, Thorney Road, Thornham Road. Gordon Road, Mill Quay and Osprey Quay. We will also be remember the NHS, Doctor's Surgery, chemist and care homes in the Parish.

(If you would like to join us on Zoom please contact Anne Marsden for the details. If you are aware of any prayer items in the area please contact—peter.p.b.pearson@btinternet.com or phone – 371591.)



Care for the family

21,22,23 October

Cff.org.uk/freetobe
to register

Sometimes the momentum of life can feel overwhelming. As women we may find we're constantly trying to balance life. FREE TO BE will equip you with practical ideas and challenge you to bolder, braver & more confident about the future God has created for you.

Last year, Tearfund raised an incredible £250,000 with 562 church and more than 26,000 people taking part. This year, the Big Quiz will take place on Saturday 14 November and this time it will be going online.

Put the date in your diary - and further information will follow



Have you heard about Major Mick yet and how he is raising money for St. Wilfrid's Hospice?



Major Mick's 'Tintanic' challenge got underway at the beginning of October as the 80-year-old ex-army major began rowing the first few miles up and down the Chichester Canal in a home-made corrugated iron boat.

Christened the 'Tintanic', the metallic vessel has undergone its own sea trials at Wittering's beach and Bosham harbour prior to starting the ambitious 100-mile challenge to raise funds for St Wilfrid's Hospice.

Major Mick said, "I wish to complete this venture in aid of our local St Wilfrid's Hospice in Bosham that has done such wonderful work over the years in our community.

I will leave Hunston every Saturday and Wednesday at 11am and return from Chichester Basin to complete a total distance of 100 miles over the coming months.

My hope is that I can raise £1,000 for this very special place that has served and continues to serve us all in the Chichester Area."

As of October 1, Mick has smashed his initial target and is sailing his way toward a new £5000 target.

If you would like to show your support for Major Mick, please wave and snap a picture with the #Isawthetintanic if you see him on the canal.

You can also visit his just giving page and consider a donation at www.justgiving.com/.../majormicktintanic100challenge.

The Centre is now open in the afternoon for bookings, please email admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com for more information.

If you have news/photos that can be shared with St. John's, please email the same address as above. Thank you.