

Good Morning Everyone,

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

### **Daily Update - October 28th**

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**

*"Be still and know that I am God".*

*Lord, may your spirit guide me to seek*

*Your Loving presence more and more.*

*For it is there I find rest and refreshment from this busy world.*

### **Rejoice**

I rejoice in God's voice today, reminding myself that he calls me to trust him with the

ancient words of all God's people in Psalm 119:89-96

Your word, Lord, is eternal;

it stands firm in the heavens.

Your faithfulness continues through all generations;

you established the earth, and it endures.

Your laws endure to this day,

for all things serve you.

If your law had not been my delight,

I would have perished in my affliction.

I will never forget your precepts,

for by them you have preserved my life.

Save me, for I am yours;

I have sought out your precepts.

The wicked are waiting to destroy me,

but I will ponder your statutes.

To all perfection I see a limit,

but your commands are boundless.

### **John 15:17-27**

Remember what I told you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.'

'There may be trouble ahead,' so the song line goes. Within the call to follow Jesus is the central expectation, 'love each other.' As the disciples were to live out this 'Golden Rule', they were always going to encounter curiosity, suspicion and

often opposition. Opposition against what they stood for, for what they believed and for how they lived. This world's attitude, one that has ultimately always rejected Christ, would soon have Jesus crucified and is the prevailing attitude that pervades today. We may be considered quirky, for our beliefs, hypocritical for daring to define 'God's love', out of touch with a society that has moved on while we cling to our vestiges of historical religious privilege. Meanwhile extremists in both camps polarise the arguments, adding fuel to the waiting fire. What Jesus is preparing his followers for then, is to have the fortitude to keep going when opposition comes. Things that come unexpectedly often cause us to question either what we believe that took us along that path, or even whether we are still heading where we thought we were. We need to be sure about why we believe what we believe, before it is tested to breaking point. But, if we are walking with Jesus, opposition, amongst the unexpected things that come against us, are to be expected. Even when we are doing 'good' people can be suspicious and we can be caught off guard. A compliment becomes a criticism, 'You are really kind, if only you were just a bit more.....'

People will almost certainly identify us with Jesus if we are doing and saying the sorts of things Jesus would. So, if the world, under the rule of Satan, rejected Jesus, why would it treat his 'weaker' followers any better? We should take comfort from that, without looking for trouble, opposition is a privilege the apostles rejoiced in, (Acts 4 & 5).

What keeps us going then, is the same truth that made a promise with Abraham, inspired Joseph, spoke for Moses and consoled David is that God has made himself known and now lives with us. The world might not like us or understand us, but Jesus LOVES us and it cannot overcome us. We need to feed ourselves with those truths everyday ready for any circumstance. Each time we read and pray, to expect something strengthening, for we do not live on bread alone.

### **Yielding prayer**

**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 is on Annual Leave at the moment until Sunday. If you need to get in touch urgently, please call 01243 375576.**

### **Remembrance Sunday, 8th November at 10.30**



St. John's will be marking Remembrance Sunday this year but in a slightly different way due to Covid restrictions.

Matt Luff will lead a said service outside in the church grounds by the Cross, which will conclude with the two minute silence followed by the laying of the wreaths. We have invited representatives from the Parish Council and Sea Scouts to attend and bring their standards.

Matt will also read the names of those from Southbourne who fell in both world wars.

There will not be a service of Holy Communion but a virtual service will be recorded beforehand and uploaded as usual.

Attendance will be limited. Socially distance areas will be marked out and even though it is outside, you will need to wear a mask. We estimate that there are 20 such spaces available.

If you wish to attend, could you please email Susie at [admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com](mailto:admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com)

## News from Richard & Kim

It's that time of year again when shops are selling the most hideous outfits they can think of, in the hope that we all will dress up and spend the day scaring each other. Innocent vegetables and nocturnal animals become the focus of a day of celebrating something or other and we're left as Christians not very well equipped to decide whether or not to take part. For Richard and I, we didn't really have to deal with it until Autumn-Rae had started school. I saw joining in as an opportunity to be the light on a dark day, and I could see that not joining in at all was also a way of testifying that we followed Christ. But I couldn't pick which course to take until one day Autumn-Rae and I were in a Tesco express and there on a small display of Halloween tat was a small red glittery sequin sparkly headband with two little red horns.

That was it. As a redeemed child of God, a born again, spirit filled new creation, shall I dress my child as Satan? Not on your nelly. So this week, Susie, Susanna and I have put light party packs together including glow sticks, sweets and Scripture Union Booklets explaining that Jesus is the light and will deliver 60 packs to children already connected with St John's.

Kim

**GOD IS LIGHT**

**IN HIM THERE IS NO DARKNESS  
AT ALL.**

**John 1:5**

## Families Step Together (Sunday's @ 4pm)

Hi everyone, I'm sure that we are all more than aware, that as of last Sunday the evenings have started to draw in and the weather has become increasingly wetter. We could be excused for feeling a bit glum! However, the families' ministry has embraced Autumn, as it has given us the opportunity to move the Families Step Together service from outside to inside the church.

This Sunday (25<sup>th</sup> October), Kim opened the doors of church and gave five families a really warm welcome as, for the first time since the lockdown, we came inside to worship Jesus together in a COVID secure, social distanced, environment. The topic couldn't have been more fitting. It was trust! Kim and I couldn't have been more delighted with how the service went and with how many families made the decision to make the transition of worshipping outside to inside.



### Alpha Youth:

I want to share with you another really exciting initiative! It's called Alpha Youth. Alpha Youth is a young peoples' group that meets every Sunday morning from 09:45 - 10:45. The group has a nucleus of eleven young people aged between 9 - 13 years old and meets in the centre lounge.

So far, this group has been a fantastic success as we use the Alpha Youth material and video to explore the Christian Faith and Christ's relevance to our lives. We have looked at two sessions' so far:

Life. Is this it?  
Who is Jesus?

We've also explored questions that the young people have asked. Questions like:

- (1): What is heaven like?
- (2): How did God feel when he changed water into wine?
- (3): Why did God give us free will if He knew it would cause suffering?

As well as being Christ focused, the team and I have designed each session to be fun, by incorporating fun ice-breaker games and challenges, as well as creating an environment where Christian friendships can be established. This is all underpinned by the relaxed and open environment where young people can discover and explore the person hood of Christ whilst being free to express their own questions.



Registration



Hand sanitizer station



Layout of the room

Thank you everyone and God bless,

Richard.

## Message from The Treasurer, Alan McNeill

Introducing the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS):

Thank you for your financial support of St Johns during this very difficult time. We really appreciate your commitment. As you know, the church is not free and your regular giving keeps us running. From last years accounts the expenses were £13,500 a month with the largest items being our payment to the diocese of £6,000 a month and £3,000 a month for staff salaries.

The Parish Giving Scheme has been introduced by the Diocese as a better way to give to St Johns church regularly. You have the option to donate monthly, quarterly or annually.

You also have the option to give linked to the rate of inflation so your donation is "inflation proofed".

If you are a tax payer then PGS claims the Gift Aid monthly, 25 per cent added to your giving, directly for us. That saves a huge amount of our administrative effort and improves our cash flow.

If you do not pay tax, please enrol in PGS as your way of regularly supporting the work of St Johns.

The scheme is paid for by our Diocese. St Johns PCC have voted to introduce the scheme to church members and have taken the lead with enrolling in the scheme. Their feedback has been positive; it is easy to complete the form and send it off. You can increase or decrease your giving at any time.

Please consider prayerfully how much you give. The last thing we want is for you to get into financial difficulties.

If you have any queries then please email the treasurer, Alan:

[treasurer@stjohnssouthbourne.com](mailto:treasurer@stjohnssouthbourne.com)

 THE BIG  
LOVE SOUTHBOURNE

QUIZ

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER  
AT 7.15PM

JOIN ON  
[SJHONSSOUTHBOURNE.COM](http://SJHONSSOUTHBOURNE.COM)  
OR THE [WELOVESOUTHBOURNE](https://www.facebook.com/we lovesouthbourne)  
FACEBOOK PAGE



## Visiting the Church Centre

As we start to use the centre a little more, we need to make sure that our visitor records are kept up to date. If you are attending a group meeting in the centre, the group leader will have booked the session via the office and will keep a register of attendees. For key holders who need to enter, please post in the keyholders WhatsApp group or contact the office. Please bear in mind the kitchen is still closed and there is a form to fill in if you use the toilets. Thank you for bearing with us during these strange times!

## Please turn it off!

If you are in the Church for a service

## Sunday Services in November and December

Please email me at [admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com](mailto: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.**



## Tearfund Quiz Saturday, November 15th

The good news is that there is a Tearfund quiz this year, and we will run it on Zoom. But we need some imagination: the logistics are more difficult but the need is greater than ever. Tearfund is working with people who have little sanitation or healthcare. They are doing lots of education about handwashing and basic healthcare as well as helping feed those who have lost their livelihoods. For the poor, this pandemic comes on top of changing weather patterns due to climate change, crop failure, and locusts.

*I therefore invite you all to be imaginative and creative.....*

Are you happy to invite a few expert quizzers to your house to form a team and boost your chances of winning? (Assuming that is still permitted).

Could you make a cake/pudding to keep the teams going during the quiz?

Would you make an extra donation to have a delicious cake or pudding delivered to your door?

Do you have any other ideas to encourage people to give generously?

There will be a Justgiving page and I hope that you will feel you can each donate £5 to take part. If you haven't got £5, don't worry, take part anyway. If you feel able to donate more, that would be fantastic!

More information next week, save the date and start asking those quizzing friends to join you.

Sarah Maclennan

**The Centre is now open in the afternoon for bookings, please email [admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com](mailto: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.**

And finally, here is a beautiful photograph from Mel and Elizabeth Salmon when they were visiting Mottisfont. It made them think of the worship song "The trees of the field" Isaiah 55:12

