

**JUNE 10TH 2020 | ISSUE#11**

**BELONG - BELIEVE - GROW - REACH OUT**



# **The Rock**

**ST PETER'S PARISH CHURCH, RUSHDEN**

# The Holy Trinity: The God of Love

*Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.*

At the weekend we celebrated Trinity Sunday, and together we prayed these words and marvelled at the glory of God revealed as Father, Son and Spirit. But what does this prayer actually mean? Before we reflect on the Trinity more deeply, let's take a moment to slowly read over those words, meditating on them in the presence of God.

God has chosen to reveal Himself to us as the Holy Trinity so that we might know Him personally, however what He has revealed can sometimes feel very complex. What are we to do with this? Is God simply a mystery, or is it worthwhile taking the time to try and understand these amazing revelations?

I certainly think it is worthwhile. We do not seek truth in these mysteries to be able to fully understand God, but along the way we find that our relationship with Him deepens, and our experience of Him is given the space to grow.

I wonder... what often comes to mind when people hear the word, 'God'? For some, it may be a positive response, but for many this is sadly not the case. 'God' might be a concept that people associate with war, division, authority, power, control, force and so on. If God has always existed as some solitary being who made the world just so that He could exercise dominion over it to benefit Himself, then we might be tempted to think this way too.

But this is not what has been revealed to us.

As we heard on Sunday: **God is love.** God cannot deny who he is; he cannot 'act out of character' or be anything other than love.



When we say that God cannot deny who he is, we do not mean that he is not free. True love is not given by force, but is genuine and benefits those who both give and receive it. We see the Father speak over the Son, at the baptism of Jesus, how He is proud of Him, how He calls Him his own and builds Him up, giving Him the confidence and trust to be secure in his Father's love. We witness what kind of love God shares within Himself.

To say that God is sovereign, the one in control who bears all power over the world is very different when we understand that this same God exists in giving, receiving and sharing love - the same God who gives life to others and longs for them to share in His communion. It is to question and to turn upside down our understanding of divine power, as well as human power.

The creation of the world, the coming of the Son into the world, and the Holy Spirit being in the world today are not accidents, but all *freely chosen and deliberate acts of the Trinity*. These acts are not done from a rule of force, *but a rule of love*. Every action that He takes flows from His nature of love. This God, whom we worship as Father, Son and Spirit, is trust-worthy, praise-worthy and someone in whom we can place our confidence.

# Update from Derek and Jane

During these days of restricted movement, Derek and Jane are able to spend more time with those living near them. Their large verandah "comes in useful" .

1. Neny Holy (wife of Bishop Samy) meets Jane twice a week for an English lesson.

Pray for Neny Holy that she might become more fluent in English and be encouraged by her friendship with Jane.

2. Zafy regularly meets Derek on the verandah. He is normally away in Tana studying for ordination. As the university is closed at present, this provides opportunities for conversations about discipleship etc. and the sharing of spiritual journeys.

Pray for Zafy - that God would continue to prepare him for ordained ministry and that these chats with Derek may be part of it.

3. Florent, discipleship colleague of Derek and Jane, joins them once a week. They discuss plans for the Rooted in Jesus programme and how best to encourage discipleship across the Diocese.

Pray for Florent - that God would bless and use him in his parish and also equip him for participation in discipleship training, especially when he eventually takes over from Derek.

4. Derek and Jane - pray that God will keep them safe and well, and that they may rejoice each day in the goodness of God. Please pray also that they will continue to think of creative ways of helping others spiritually and practically.



# Happy Birthday Phil!

A big congratulations to Phil Cambers who celebrates his 70th birthday this week!!!

## Hall Kitchen

The PCC has agreed to go ahead with the Hall kitchen refurbishment. This will start next Monday, and so access will be limited to work personnel only. As an additional security measure a new lock will be fitted to the the church hall. Hopefully this project will be completed in four weeks.

## Food Bank

We sent more items to the Rushden food bank this week. Do please continue to leave items in the blue box by the rectory door, thank you!

## Church Open for Private Prayer

Following guidance from the Church of England, we will soon be opening the church building twice a week for private prayer. Until further notice however, no entry to church building is permitted without express permission from the rector or a church warden.

Watch this space for further details.

## Pray for Shirley

Shirley Skinner would value your prayers as she has an operation in Oxford on the 17th of June.

# Prayer for the Week

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Memory Verse

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love, abides in God, and God abides in them.

- 1 John 4:16 -

## Joan's Joke!

**Did you hear about the woman who noticed how long her hair was?**

***...when standing on the scales, she said "I didn't realise that hair was so heavy!"***

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