

What's The Next Sermon Series Going To Be About?

We are going to be looking at the book of Ezekiel. Most people know about *The Valley of the Dry Bones* but the rest of the book is a mystery.

As a young man, Ezekiel's future was all laid out. School, theological college, and ultimately member of the temple priesthood.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar arrives with his army and drags the 27 year old Ezekiel to Babylon. Jerusalem is ultimately destroyed. Even worse, God dramatically abandons his own temple.

What happens when your world falls apart?



Sunday

3 October 2021

Trinity 18

Please pray for our church family

Mon	Liz Morecombe & family
Tue	Gareth and Ade Morris who have just moved to Wales
Wed	Rod & Sharon Mortimer
Thu	Trevor & Linda Morton-Holmes
Fri	James Muigai & Mary Murichu & family
Sat	Esther Mukono & Abraham Ngeru & family
Sun	Tony & Jill Nash

Prayers:

- * **Trevor Morton-Holmes**, great reduction in pain as his injured shoulder heals
- * **Joshua and Abbie** who have been suffering from covid
- * **Rachel Crosby**, wisdom for doctors treating her heart symptoms
- * **John Howard**, complete recovery and freedom from pain
- * **The government**, as it tackles climate change, Covid19, and the petrol and social care crises.
- * **Rosemary Smith** sends thanks for the prayers and good wishes following her recent operation.

Services Next Week - The Great Multiplying Machine

10 Oct 21	9am	Holy Communion 1662	Raymond Adams
	11am	All Age Harvest Live streamed to YouTube	Raymond Adams



**Gender
&
Holiness**

Time	Service	Sermon	Readings
9.00 am	Holy Communion in Church	Raymond Adams	Leviticus 20:22-26 Ephesians 4:17-30
11.00 am	Morning Praise Live streamed to YouTube	Raymond Adams	

Covid 19 – Where Are We?

The success of the vaccination programme has been a massive answer to prayer, but, while it has transformed the outlook of the pandemic, it has not eliminated all risk. We still need to carefully manage the risks from Covid-19.

Over the past 18 months, we have endured unprecedented restrictions on the way we practise our faith. The virus has affected our ability to meet together, to sing together and to celebrate communion together. The pandemic is not over as our three recent cases have demonstrated. None of those people were infected in church.

It would be a pity if mask-wearing were to become an issue. We wear our masks for other people, not for ourselves. That is a profoundly Christian principle.

So we still ask the congregation to wear masks while singing.



The Balcony and Covid

If all those who were intending to go into the balcony last week had gone upstairs there would have been 21 people adults and children up there out of an in-person congregation of 57. In other words, 37% would have been upstairs in a small space as we are now using only one side of the balcony.

That would not be safe. Our plan is to use the balcony as an overflow area once the downstairs area has been safely filled. This will have the added advantage of improving the singing and enhancing worship for everyone.



Where Next For The Music Group?

The music group kept worship going during lockdown.

Now we can come back to church we know which members of the music group are happy to play and sing and which are shielding. Where do we go from here?

Alison will say more on Sunday.



Harvest and The Filling Station

The Filling Station has re-started after being forced to close temporarily because of Covid. It has operated in Swindon every Thursday for over 20 years, and supports 50 homeless people, or those at risk of homelessness, each week.

During the height of the pandemic many homeless people were accommodated by the Council in hotels. A good number have been found more permanent accommodation, but the challenges still exist.

If a homeless person now has accommodation, where is the need?

Trustee Angus Macpherson explains: “It is really wonderful that some people have been found accommodation. The challenge now is for them maintain those tenancies. A home is a firm foundation, but that tenancy can be so easily lost if support from Drug, Alcohol & Mental Health agencies is not in place.



Do you do all this on your own?

No—we can’t. The Filling Station works closely with two other registered charities in the town, Threshold Housing Link and Booth House (Salvation Army)

How does St John’s contribution help?

We all understand that the complex issues behind homelessness cannot be solved by food alone—but people still need to eat. Your tins of food are a lifeline for many of the people with whom the Filling Station is in contact. And although it has been wonderfully warm, winter is coming.

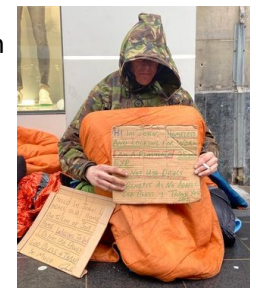
So how does it actually work?

We meet the homeless every Thursday evening where they receive food, bedding and clothing as needed, as well as the opportunity to speak with outreach workers from Threshold Housing with a view to ensuring that those still on the street can access accommodation before the weekend.

What do you need from us?

We really need four types of food.

- ◆ Tins of beans or spaghetti
- ◆ Tins of meat or fish
- ◆ Tins of soup
- ◆ Tins of pudding - especially rice pudding



Whatever you did for him, you did for me....