



Trinity 1

The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale



Edition 13

'Church in the Home'

Sunday June 14th – Saturday June 20th

From the Vicarage

Looking back over the past months of lockdown and reading this week's reflection from Heather, it's wonderful to see how the church has risen up with their gifts in reading, writing, intercession, music, online recordings, creative editing skills, dance and pastoral support. There has been such a pouring out of general care and kindness for those in our community. Sewing, baking, cooking, farming, keeping in touch by phone, delivering open pantry gifts, caring for our church yards, producing children's crafts online, puppets theatres, networking on social media and email and praying through our telephone prayer chain as well as prayer via WhatsApp groups and email. What a wonderful expression of what it means to be church in our local context but also across the nation and indeed the world. The buildings may have been closed but the Church is busy!

Recent independent polls estimate approx. 20% of the UK population has accessed a church service on line since our lockdown began on March 23rd. Amongst the challenges, anxiety and very real heartache that has come as a consequence of the virus, it's right to remember that in God we are a people of destiny who carry a message of love and hope in Jesus Christ; and He makes all the difference. I wonder what the next few months will bring us as we tentatively transition out of our quarantine and step into a new way of doing life.

A first step was announced by the government this week in that places of worship would be allowed to open for private prayer from Monday June 15th. The news came without warning and the statement is easier to declare than it is to implement. We will need to utilise many more of our gifts in writing risk assessments, purchasing cleaning and sanitising materials, deploying younger members of our church in an initial deep clean process and then ensuring that the correct supervision and cleaning procedures are undertaken during and after the hours of access. All of this must be done to ensure that we are doing our very best to keep everyone safe, so please bear with us in this process as we navigate a new way forward in a swiftly changing world. Our circumstances may change, but we rejoice in a God who does not. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

So let's build on that truth as we move forward together in perseverance, living life with God. For as we are reminded in our reading from Romans: '*.. we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.*' Romans 5:3-4 NIV



God of Justice

<https://youtu.be/b3NeIRb1LY4>

Music from
Sarah

This song by Tim Hughes has really struck me recently. We must go! Speaks into the heart of God as a God of justice and that we should be moved by this into action. As we watch and listen with horror to the news of these days, let's listen and take in these words and reflect on how we want God to speak to our hearts in each situation; how we can go and how we can give .

God of Justice, Saviour to all
Came to rescue the weak and the poor
Came to serve and not be served

And Jesus, You have called us
Freely we've received now freely we will
give

We must go, live to feed the hungry
Stand beside the broken, we must go
Stepping forward keep us from just singing
Move us into action, we must go

Fill us up, send us out

To act justly everyday
Loving mercy in every way
Walking humbly before You God

You have shown us what You require
Freely we've received now freely we will give

We must go, live to feed the hungry
Stand beside the broken, we must go
Stepping forward keep us from just singing
Move us into action, we must go

Fill us up, send us out...

Here I am Lord

<https://youtu.be/mgLwH5RdtPk>

"Here I am Lord" fits with the same theme. Are we hearing the cry of the people? Will we hold all Gods people in our hearts? We sing this song merrily and joyfully but let's go deeper and really allow God to challenge us before we randomly sing the phrase "Here I am Lord". It's often costly and uncomfortable. Let's allow God to speak and then respond with integrity.

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart*

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart
I will hold Your people in my heart.*



Sunday May 31st Bible Readings:

Exodus 19:2-8a, Psalm 100, Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

Click on this site, type in the reading you want and then listen to David Suchet read it to you.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/Gen.1>

Reflection

Today's readings paint God as PROVIDER, PROTECTOR and LOVING FATHER of His Chosen People – A TIMELESS TRUTH!

In the Exodus passage, He delivered the Israelites from Egypt, 'caring for them as an eagle cares for her young' and he told them, through Moses, that they would be His own people if they would obey Him and keep his covenant. All agreed.

In Paul's letter to the Romans he talks about being put right with God through faith. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. He has brought us through faith into this experience of God's grace in which we now live. *'Give thanks and praise that the Lord is good, his love is eternal and his faithfulness last for ever.'* Psalm 100

In the gospel reading, Jesus sends out the twelve with a list of instructions on how to preach to the lost sheep of the people of Israel. One of these is that as they have received without paying so they must give without being paid.

'Gifts and giving' is my focus today.

Freely, freely you have received. Freely, freely give.

In Ephesians we learn that in our union with Christ, God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Before the world was made, he had chosen us to be His. We are holy and without fault before Him – His sons and daughters. Praise God for the free gift He gave us in His dear son.

We have also been given the Holy Spirit to help us. The Spirit produces certain attributes – the fruit of the spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.

Some of these attributes have been very much in evidence in our dale during this period of lockdown and self-isolation. Kindness abounds and many people have displayed selflessness to help their fellow men, those vulnerable people who could not function without these caring, helping hands. We should continue to serve one another, displaying the fruit of the spirit together with our individual talents, time and energy.

Let's endeavour to invest in the talent we have been given; do not hide it away. Honour God by using the gifting that is within us. The Lord gives the desire to be generous and also the means to be generous. He will not set us up to fail. You can even give what you don't think you have – God equips. True, there are some who do not feel they have any talents or gifts to share but no one should write themselves off in this way. God has a part for everyone to play.

Interviewing a lady whom I knew to be kind, caring, honest, hard-working and reliable for a post of teaching assistant to work with SEN children, I asked her what skills she thought she could bring to the role. After a lengthy pause, she said that she didn't really have any skills. She looked pensive and there was another pause before she offered '...but I am very good at saying the same thing over and over again and in different ways if someone does not understand the first time.' This lady was patience personified and a real asset to the school especially in helping those with behavioural difficulties and their families. She is now a social worker working with families and training others. No skills? God equipped and placed her where she was needed.

In his book, 'The Gift', Lewis Hyde investigates the idea of the gift having a life of its own and continuing to benefit others as it is passed on. It is not used up. He starts from the idea of the gift of creativity and the passing on of one of his creations but I believe it is applicable to gifts of service too. Kindness received inspires kindness to be given.

He says that the talent that is not used is lost. Use and bestow. By giving away a creation from our talent (or, I think, a service to another), we create, he says, that empty space into which new energy may flow.

'Gifts pass from hand to hand; they endure through such transmission, as every time a gift is given, it is enlivened and regenerated through the new spiritual life it engenders in the giver and the receiver.'

He quotes May Sarton, (Journal of a Solitude), 'The gift turned inwards, unable to be given becomes a heavy burden, even sometimes a kind of poison. It is as though the flow of life is backed up.'

We must share our talents; follow the Spirit to carry out the good deeds that God has already prepared for us to do. See Ephesians 2.

As God's chosen people, and part of the Holy Priesthood we can bring others to know God. We belong to God; we are honoured to be royalty. This great honour carries with it the responsibility to love and to serve, not forgetting that Jesus Himself was the Servant King.

Heather Clarke



Prayers



Let us pray

We are living in a turbulent time, and have new challenges in our lives - it is also an opportunity to change our thoughts and ideas - to adopt better ways of living. Lord, guide us to act on what we have overlooked - to listen where we have not heard - to give what we have withheld.

We pray for peace - to dispel conflict, hate and division. Lord guide political leaders - show them how to make wise decisions - and at this time of racial unrest, to have the understanding, and will to take action on inequalities and discrimination, to bring about a fairer world.

Recently a palliative care doctor wrote:

"The point of our response to corona virus is not to flatten curves, ramp up headlines, protect the NHS or invent mathematically nonsensical equations: it is to prevent unnecessary dying"

This to me implicitly illuminates the very best of human qualities - compassion, dedication, resilience and self-sacrifice. Let us pray for all those working in the NHS and care homes, and for those who have died carrying out this vital work.

We remember all people who are grieving - for those who are facing a future weighed down with a myriad of problems - worries about housing, employment, money, relationships - or those people who have no one to turn to in their loneliness.

At this beautiful time of year we give thanks for the gifts of the natural landscape, the tranquillity and sense of your spirit Lord - in the land, trees and becks - restorative, and supporting our faith in times of doubt.

To finish my prayers I want to give a small extract from a book by Margaret Parry entitled "Your Face My Light: Maurice Zundel, the Gospel of Man", which brings into focus God as love:

"The whole world is suspended by a thread to this divine fragility, Love, which can be crushed, rejected, crucified by any one of us. The world, then, is not what we supposed. We have to carry it in our turn, transform it, confer on it its true meaning. We have to bring it into the circle of light and love"

Lord in your mercy - hear our prayers. Amen

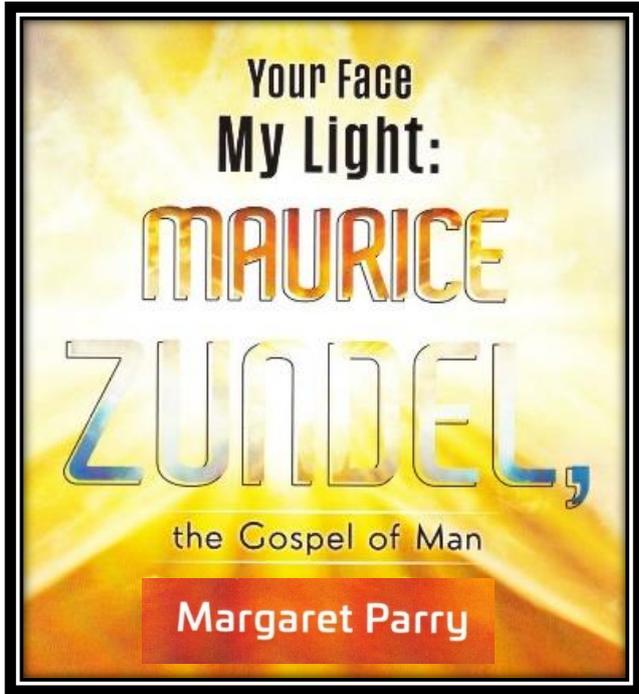
Mavis Fawcett

...This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday ...

Sunday June 14th
10:30am
Join us for
Morning Prayer



To view this Sunday's service:
Visit the website
www.upperwensleydalechurch.co.uk
or our FaceBook page :
[upperwensleydalechurch-cofe](https://www.facebook.com/upperwensleydalechurch-cofe)



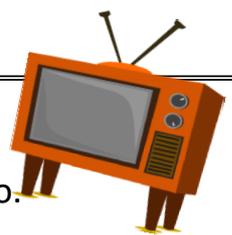
Maurice Zundel – 1897 -1975 was a Swiss writer, Catholic Priest and theologian. Marginalised by the Catholic Church for his unorthodox modernist views, Zundel is little known in the English speaking world. Our very own **Margaret Parry** has for many years been inspired by the man and his writings (I know, I've seen her study!) and has now, after many years of research, translated his teaching and placed his life in a biographical context. Why not support Margaret and buy a copy. Copies may be purchased in paper back for £8.99 or as an ebook at £3.50 from: Austin Macauley mail@austinmacauley.com www.austinmacauley.com 0207 038 8212

OPEN PANTRY

Until our buildings re open fully, we will continue to deliver where there is need. Please continue to drop off your donations at the vicarage. Let us know on 667553 if you would like some help or know of someone else who would appreciate some.

TV Radio

Worship on the BBC:



Tune into some of the services on TV and Radio.

- Sunday: Radio 4** Sunday Worship 8:10 – 8:50am Celebration of Corpus Christie.
- Radio 3** Choral Evensong 3:00 – 4pm from York Minster.
- Sunday BBC1** Worship. 10:45 – 11:15am **First after Trinity Sunday** service From Holy Trinity Platt Church Manchester.



1:15-1:50 *Songs of Praise* with Aled Jones
Aled visits our own Yorkshire Dales to meet those who find our area spiritually inspiring.