

A few words on our readings

Isaiah 51:1-6. In this passage we see how God speaks to three groups of people. First of all those who seek him out. *Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord.* An example is Abraham. Secondly the people of Israel who will see Jerusalem restored. *For the Lord will comfort Zion.* Thirdly he offers salvation to all peoples. *My salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples.* God's salvation is for all and it will know no end. Isaiah's words are echoed by the psalmist and in Psalm 138 we read: *Your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever.*

Romans 12: 1-8. Because of all that God has already done on behalf of human beings, Paul urges Christians to respond appropriately. For Paul an appropriate response consists of presenting ' *Your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.* Allowing ourselves to be transformed by God means that we are open to his will and that we are aware of each other as members of Christ's body, the Church. The individual gifts that we receive from God in our Christian lives are there to build up the whole body. Our church is made up of such a variety of gifts and they are there to build up Christ's church in Whiston.

Matthew 16: 13-20 Peter's declaration at Caesarea Philippi that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, is a significant moment in the ministry of Jesus. The disciples had been with Jesus for some time but until this moment his true identity had not been revealed to them. In referring to Peter as the rock on which he would build his church Jesus is showing that it is by faith that we will become members of that church. Jesus needs our assent and acceptance, these are the cornerstones of our belonging to him, not adherence to a set of rules.

The Church is a Faith community, based on our belief that Jesus is God's Son, sent by God to lead us through his death and Resurrection to eternal life. The challenge for us is to proclaim Christ's Lordship in our daily lives and in the life of our church community. May we constantly renew our commitment to him.

Opportunities for worship, prayers and other resources 23.08.20200

You can watch a **video sermon** on Sunday's Gospel or read the script on <https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/video-sermons>

Reflection & Compline on Thursday at 7.30 pm led by the Revd. Prof. Alison Milbank, Canon Theologian at Southwell Minster website www.southwellminster.org

Radio & TV

Sunday Worship on Radio 4 at 8-10 am Songs of Praise BBC 1 at 1-15 pm.
Choral Evensong Wednesday at 3-30pm on BBC Radio 3 & on Sundays at 3.00pm
The Daily Service (15 minutes on weekdays) at 9h45 on BBC Radio 4 long wave.

A FREE PHONE LINE for WORSHIP & PRAYERS for people without INTERNET 0800 804 8044 is available 24 hours a day and is a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes. Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

