



St Mary's
with
St Peter's
PRINCES RISBOROUGH
& ILMER

News

Sunday June 2nd 2019, Seventh Sunday of Easter

Dear Friends

'One day as we were going to a place of prayer, we met a slave-girl.....' It is an intriguing start to a story, an everyday, ordinary event going to a place of prayer, when an encounter takes place. The story unravels through a series of mainly unintended consequences: an exorcism, a lawsuit, a night in jail, an unexpected reaction to freedom, each revealing (or allowing us to reflect on) aspects of God's love, mercy, justice and freedom.

I was drawn to the untold story of the slave-girl. She appears at the start – it is through her that the string of events begins – but then disappears. We learn she had a gift, one that brought others a great deal of money (it was the loss of this income source that led to prison for Paul and Silas). Maybe another example of the maths of the market:

Vulnerability + ingenuity – compassion = profit (for someone else)

We don't know what happened before or after her encounter with Paul and Silas. How did she come to be a slave? How did her 'owners' make money from her gift? Once she was freed from that which benefited her owners, did they let her go or did they keep her for other purposes? If they did set her free, was she able to return home? If she did return home, was she welcomed there? Was she able to return to any semblance of a normal life? We don't know, although I believe (hope) the freedom that comes through God's love transforms all areas of life: physical, economic, emotional and spiritual.

I also believe change comes through the smallest of acts of compassion – even Paul's mildly annoyed response to the slave girl. Take for example the Clewer Initiative which is enabling local churches to detect modern slavery in their communities and help provide victim support and care (www.theclewerinitiative.org/) particularly through raising awareness about hidden slavery in hand car washes and nail bars. Today our story of change, of revealing God's love might begin 'one day as we went to a place on the High Street, we met.....'

Rev Michael Hunt

Collect for Seventh Sunday of Easter

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

PRAYER POINTS:

- For CMS Uganda
- For Eloise and Ezmay Wright, being baptised today.
- For our clergy, churchwardens and PCC.
- For our Government as they seek to find a new leader and a way forward.
- For the people of Venezuela, suffering from extreme poverty and malnutrition.
- For all doctors, nurses and medical staff on whom we rely for our care.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF HEALING AND PEACE:

Erica and family, Emma, Chris, John Hardy, Joy Woodward, Mary Kent, Sue List, Tony Eccleston, Alan and Iris Austin, Oliver Baillie, Gladys Page, Suzie Aries, Michael Hopkins, Kelly May, Gordon & Kathleen Plumridge, Joyce Bapty, Richard Heaney, Alex Lake, Philip & Sally Jones, Shirley and Eric Watts, Barbara Higgins and Liz Lister.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO PRAY FOR:

Lisa and Russell Squire, Peter Covell, Gideon, Mary Jefferies, Keith & Judy Brambleby, Barbara Platts, Tony Mead, Hazel Boon, Michael George, Helena Oecken, Jean Moses, Annie, Bill and Marge Philips, Shirley and Don Kemp and Jean Coleman.

WE REMEMBER WITH THANKSGIVING THE LIVES OF:

Marina Hawkins, Betty Wells and David Killoh.

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Open: Mon & Tues: 9:30am -1.30pm, Weds & Thurs 9:30am -5.00pm

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NEWS & NOTICES.

SUMMER DISCIPLESHIP COURSE: David will be running a course starting on Thurs 6th June, and then on 5 Wednesdays during June and July, entitled 'The Long Road to Heaven'. The first session on June 6th will be watching a film 'The Way' with popcorn and drinks. The following five evenings will start with a meal and be followed by a clip of the film and discussion. Please see flyers and sign the list in Church.

PRAYER MINISTRY TRAINING: There will be an introductory training course for this on Tuesday 25th June from 2-5.30pm in the Chapter House, entitled 'The God who Heals'. Anyone interested in learning more about this would be most welcome to attend. Please contact Averil Stephenson on 01844 343649 or averilstephenson49@gmail.com.

PRAYER EVENING: On 28th June there will be a prayer evening at 7.30pm at Church.

PRINCES RISBOROUGH LIGHTHOUSE - 29 JULY - 2ND AUGUST: Registration is now open. Go to : <https://lighthousecentral.org/forms/child-registration>.

GAAF AND CHILD SPONSORSHIP: We are delighted that GAAF is now affiliated with Stewardship. If anyone would like to undertake sponsoring a GAAF child at this time that would be great. Further details, see Jo Williams.

ORDINATION: The ordination of Yvonne Mullins will be on 29th June at 2pm in Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford and Pat Kerr's will be at 6pm on the same day. Anyone who would like to support them is welcome.

PRINCES RISBOROUGH CHORAL SOCIETY: will be holding their summer concert at Longwick village Hall from Thursday 27th to Sat 29th June. This will be a concert version of Fiddler on the Roof. Tickets (£15) from The PR Cook Shop, Art and Office and the Library Information Centre. Finger buffet included. See PR Choral Society website for details.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you are able to spare some time to help decorate the curate's house in the week commencing 11th June, it would be much appreciated. Please contact Pete Wynn on peterwynnis@btinternet.com.

LIGHTHOUSE DONATIONS: Lighthouse has in the last few years recommended a donation of £13 per child per day. Not all families can afford this and costs are increasing. If you would like to make a donation to Lighthouse, you can find out how on the donate page of the PR Lighthouse website. A regular contribution of £5-£6 a month will fund a child's week at Lighthouse. Thank you.

NEW LIFE GROUP – PLAY WORSHIP MUSIC :- a trial to gauge interest – If you can make a noise to accompany modern worship songs then please join us. Contact Andy for details – tgis@btinternet.com.

Sunday 2nd June, Seventh Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 16:16-34, John 17, 20-end

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's
9.30am Parish Communion followed by coffee
11.15am TGIS with Baptism
3.00pm Open Door, a summer tea in the Chapter House
6.00pm Evensong at St Peter's, Ilmer

What's on in the week beginning Monday 3rd June

- Weds 5th** **9.00am** Wednesday Prayers in St Mary's
10.30am Holy Communion followed by coffee
Thurs 6th **10.30am** Coffee in the Chapter House
7.30pm Summer Discipleship Course
Fri 7th **2.00pm** Praise and Play
7.00pm Puppet Club

Sunday 9th June, Pentecost Sunday

Readings: Acts 2, 1-21, John 14, 8-17

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's
9.30am Parish Communion followed by coffee
11.15am TGIS with Baptism
3.00pm Service at Icknield Court
6.00pm United Service with Baptists and Methodists in PR Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR, SAT NOV 16TH: I know it's early to be thinking of Christmas but if you would like to be part of the team organising this fantastic fundraising event for Lighthouse, we'd love to hear from you.

Rector: Revd. David Williams 346984

Associate Minister: Revd. Michael Hunt 344150;

Curate: Revd. Dan Beesley 345521;

Assistant Clergy: Revds. David & Nancy Wallace 290670;
Revds. Steve & Rose Williams 274225; Canon Nick Molony 273895;
Revd. Jenny Deverill 274269; **LLM:** Averil Stephenson 343649

Churchwardens: David Stephenson and Bryan Matthew