

Dear friends,

**Exeter Cathedral** will be praying for the Raleigh Mission community tomorrow 9th June at the following services in the cathedral;

### Services

08.35 The Eucharist (CW) celebrated in the Lady Chapel (Monday to Saturday)

09.00 Morning Prayer (CW) by Zoom (Monday to Friday)

ID: 996 3898 5011; Password: 1F0puR (**NB** *The third character is zero*)

17.30 Choral Evensong (BCP) in the Quire (Monday to Saturday)

It would be good if we reciprocate and pray for the cathedral and all who work there.

**This Jubilee weekend** will be remembered long in my mind for dancing in Budleigh High Street late into the evening amongst hundreds of fellow revellers similarly letting their hair down. It was a joyous occasion that coloured every other offering, including the superb concert in St. Peter's on Sunday evening. 150 of us waving flags and singing the national anthem, Land of hope and glory and listening to excellent musical offerings pertinent to the Queen and her reign.





**Note:** Due to circumstances – a family get together in Wales next week and the Diocesan conference in Cirencester the week after there will be no soul food communication for a couple of weeks!

## 12th June is Trinity Sunday

Note: There is NO morning service at All Saints East Budleigh because of people being involved in the scarecrow festival but at 6pm that evening there is the Scarecrow songs of praise service at which I will preside. I will also preside at both services at St. Peter's in the morning and the venerable Trevor Jones will preside at the 11am service at St. Michael's.

**Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31.** Wisdom, a feminine concept in Greek, was with God at the dawn of creation so in effect this is another creation narrative to set alongside the Genesis stories. “Wisdom” rejoiced in the creation of the world but significantly “delighted” in the human race. Judaism has always equated wisdom with the Torah (first five books of the Bible) while Christians have always equated the wisdom figure with the word made flesh – Jesus Christ

**Romans 5: 1-5.** There is no doctrine of the Trinity in the Bible but here, Paul, in talking about God in five short verses mentions God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in this short passage as acting as one “thing” to make real his assertion that we are Justified in God’s eyes (Just as if I’d never sinned - is a good way to remember what justification means). And people who are justified have peace, hope and love.

**John 16: 12-15.** Again, all three persons of the Trinity are mentioned in this short piece explaining the role of the Holy Spirit. What the Spirit does it not bring new information but fresh discernment. How do we know who to listen to or follow? Are we to follow every new fad and fashion? As John’s first letter makes clear (1John 4:1) we are not to follow every spirit but test the spirits for many false prophets have gone into the world. Not every burst of energy, not every spurt of growth, not every preacher mouthing pieces of scripture represents the authentic word of God. The touchstone is what Christ said and did. For the spirit is God the Father as revealed in Christ continuing to speak to the church.

## Thought for the day

I am seldom touched or moved by any major figures in the church nowadays. But I’d heard from various sources that Archbishop Steven Cottrell did a good job at the service in St. Paul’s and I heard him speak on radio 4 that morning and was quite impressed so I thought I’d investigate a little further and found him in an hour long interview on YouTube talking about his life, his faith journey and I have to admit I was deeply moved in a way I haven’t been for some time. What was it I wonder that touched me so much? There was much in his story that I could relate to I suppose with similar background and family situation, but there was something more. Simplicity, humility and a realness to him that didn’t claim to know more than he did, but even the simple things were somehow very profound - A bit like Jesus (dare I say). The way he talked about prayer and the power of prayer and life as a pilgrimage, evangelism and conversion being something that

God does - not us - was very reassuring and strengthening. Not everyone moves people the same way of course and perhaps it was just that I was in a very receptive state at the time – despite such caveats I was in some mysterious way touched by the reality of God (which he also talks about) in a way that I haven't been for some time by a senior Anglican. All power to him. The YouTube video which is about a hour long is called "Archbishop Stephen Cottrell Shares his faith story, and his thoughts about caring for the world". Every time I share a link this soul food email gets blocked by so many servers but I'll try this one anyway. I recommend it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-9N3Ha4ciY>

**The Prayer for Today** is one I wrote as a consequence of listening to Archbishop Stephen. They pick up themes in his interview and "Aunt Millie" is someone who continually prayed for Stephen's family to come to know the reality of God.

**Father, help me to keep it real**

**Pray in me to direct my life in the way I should go**

**and affect the decisions I make.**

**Give me grace to be an "Aunt Millie" to be an active participant**

**In making your kingdom come on earth.**

**Allow me to respect and live better alongside people**

**I don't necessarily agree with.**

**I pray that we as a church learn that we are ensnared in your net**

**And I hope that you are praying in and through us that many more people are ensnared also.**

Love and peace,  
Martin