

First Reading **Joshua 3: 7 – 17**

⁷ And the Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so that they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. ⁸ Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: “When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.”’ ⁹ Joshua said to the Israelites, ‘Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. ¹⁰ This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. ¹¹ See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. ¹² Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³ And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord – the Lord of all the earth – set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.’ ¹⁴ So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. ¹⁵ Now the Jordan is in flood all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, ¹⁶ the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Second Reading **Matthew 10: 1 - 22**

¹ Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and illness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: “The kingdom of heaven has come near.”’ ⁸ Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. ⁹ ‘Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts – ¹⁰ no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. ¹² As you enter the home, give it your greeting. ¹³ If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.

(Continued overleaf)

Second Reading (Continued)

¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. ¹⁶ ‘I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. ¹⁸ On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ ‘Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²² You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Normal Service Is Resumed (Nearly)

We have now restarted our pre-covid pattern of services at St Mary’s, with some exceptions due to various events.

The congregation are now permitted to sing at services.

The Choir are now permitted to sit nearer each other and are allowed to all sing together, without masks. They are now robing for services again.

Both the Church doors will be open to supply fresh air and ventilation as long as the weather remains favourable.

There will be no change to how the Holy Communion is administered to the congregation, i.e. in one kind.

We will continue to share the peace without handshakes etc.

There will not be a collection taken during the service but the plate will be on the table at the back of Church as usual and will be presented to the altar during the offertory hymn. This means envelopes and any money should be placed on the plate before the service, please.

The sidesperson rota and the reader rota have restarted for all services, and also the intercessions rota, but not the Chalice Assistant rota.

Readings and Prayers are now being read from the lectern, and not the pulpit.

Combined PCC Meeting

There will be a combined meeting of both the PCC’s, from St Mary’s and The Church of The Holy Spirit, Southway, with the Archdeacon, Ven. Nick Shutt, at Southway Church on Monday 18th October at 7pm. This will be to discuss the way forward as we prepare to advertise for a new Incumbent.

The Standing Committees from both Churches have been meeting to prepare a joint Mission Action Plan and Parish Profile that will be used in the process. They have one final meeting together on Monday 11th October, also at Southway Church at 7pm.

There will be a meeting with Bishop Nick McKinnel, to which everyone from both churches is invited to attend, on Thursday 18th November at 7pm at the Church of The Holy Spirit, Southway.