

First Reading **Joshua 5: 13 – 6: 20**

5: ¹³ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? ¹⁴ And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant? ¹⁵ And the captain of the LORD's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

6: ¹ Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. ² And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. ³ And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. ⁴ And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. ⁵ And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him. ⁶ And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord. ⁷ And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the Lord. ⁸ And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the Lord, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them. ⁹ And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. ¹⁰ And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout. ¹¹ So the ark of the Lord compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp. ¹² And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. ¹³ And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the Lord, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. ¹⁴ And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days. ¹⁵ And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. ¹⁶ And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city. **(Continued overleaf)**

Second Reading **(Continued)**

¹⁷ And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the Lord: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. ¹⁸ And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. ¹⁹ But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the Lord: they shall come into the treasury of the Lord. ²⁰ So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

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 tomorrow evening, 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.