



## A month of living generously

Generosity is our focus over the next month as we gather to worship and as we are sent out. You could say it should always be at the heart of who we are and what we do. But I hope we can learn something together over these weeks about the power of generosity, as people who receive so much, as people who give much too, and as people of faith who are also part of this community of Bridport. What can we learn from people outside of our church family about living generously? What can we share which speaks of the outrageous abundance of our generous God?

There are little cards for everyone, setting out a way of meditating on the nature of generosity together. God's generosity in my life...in creation...in the church and in our community. Generosity is about our *financial giving*, how we reflect our response to God's generosity to us in this very real and obvious way. A time to consider if we can give more.

Generosity is also about *how we get involved* in our shared life – how we express our faith through our involvement in the church, in our community, in our care of the earth, in our attitudes and generosity to others day by day.

It is about a deep thankfulness for all we have received and a heartfelt response to show generosity in all of our lives. In church on Sunday you will be offered a stone as a sign of all we receive through God's generosity in so many ways and in so many people. In the weeks of October, you might want to decorate it as a way of expressing thanks.



When we meet together for our team service at **10am at St John's, West Bay on 31 October** I'd like you to bring that stone back to church, and also a stone which you might have picked up in the month of reflecting on living generously. This second stone is a sign of our response to generosity - a sign of what you give, and perhaps what you'd like to give too. These will be used in our service – living stones – a sign of our lives lived in response to the generosity we have all encountered by the grace of God.

*Rev'd Deb Smith*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are sick. Those who have died and the families and friends who mourn them.



Greetings from Bridport's worshipping community!

10<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

## God's generosity in creation

Living in West Dorset we are surrounded by evidence of God's generosity in creation from the cliffs of the million-year span of the Jurassic Coast to the rolling hills and woodland inland. I am sure there are times when we respond in awe and wonder as well as those times we take all this for granted.

However, being thankful and expressing that thanks where it rightfully belongs to its Creator God, is only part of the story. We have a responsibility to care for creation too and not just in our favoured corner of West Dorset but in our awareness of the issues facing the wider world.

According to the World Bank, 811 million people were going to bed hungry in 2020 (118 million more than in 2019); 149 million under-fives were estimated to have stunted growth or considered too short for their age in 2020; 33% of food produced globally is either lost or wasted. Shocking statistics.

Sir Ghillian Prance, former director of Kew Gardens wrote this: *"True Christianity is not only about personal salvation and a place in heaven, but is also a faith that renews sinful people and sets us on a pathway from sin to stewardship of creation and social justice. Our faith can lead us on from greedy exploitation to the nurture of the part of creation that is around us."*

How can we help? One small step recommended by the Bridport Team is to use fair trade coffee and tea at our Sunday services ensuring that the producer receives a fair wage and has safe working conditions.

What small steps can we take both locally and globally in response to God's generosity in creation?

*Peter Wright*

ST SWITHUN'S  
BRIDPORT-WALDITCH-BOTHENHAMPTON-BRADPOLE-ALLINGTON-WEST BAY  
ST JOHN'S  
HOLY TRINITY  
ST MARY'S

Watch our live-streamed (or sometimes pre-recorded) Sunday Service from 10.30am

Access Online services: [www.bridport-team-ministry.org](http://www.bridport-team-ministry.org) or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bridportchurches>

## MISSION MORNING

### Saturday 16th Oct 2021, 10-12.30pm

Venue: St Mary's Church Bridport. We have six incredible churches full of passionate people wanting to care for the needs of those in the community, but how? Come and explore the needs and successes of our community by looking at the demographic, stats, input from community leaders and testimonies from people working on the frontline in our community. The whole body of the church is needed to serve in God's mission. There will be tea, coffee and cake available throughout the morning. We hope to see you there! *Bring your own lunch, stay and chat.*

*Revd Helen Croud*

## FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The funeral service for Ruth Morse will be held in Holy Trinity Bradpole at 12 noon on Thursday 21st October

## ALL SOULS SERVICES

At the end of the month we will be moving into a season of remembrance. **All Souls Day** which falls on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the day after All Saints Day, is the commemoration of the faithful departed. So at All Souls we remember those we know who have died. And, as a parish we offer, to those in our community who have been bereaved recently, a place to come together and remember, to pray, to light candles, to hear the names of their loved-ones spoken out loud. Some will be regular church-goers, many are not. All are welcome. **Three Services for All Souls will be held at 4pm** on the nearest Sunday to All Souls Day which is **31 October**. Venues: Holy Trinity Bradpole, St Swithun's Allington and St Mary's Bridport.

Families across the town, who have been bereaved in the last two years have been invited, and they and others who come in gratitude for loved-ones are invited to light a candle and remember those they have lost. Please pray for them and their loved-ones as we come to that time of remembrance.

There will also be an **All Soul's service at St Swithun's, Allington on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 10am** and sign-up sheets for names to be read at that service will be at the back of the church.

## SUNDAY'S COLLECT

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Archbishops Council 2000*

## TODAY'S READINGS

### Hebrews 4 : 12 - end

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### Mark 10 : 17 – 31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'