

Sunday 14 June 2020

1st Sunday after Trinity

Fr David reflects...

Pace of life has increased a little over the last week or so. I feel I've spent longer at my desk, on the Zoom, on the phone and, even, in the car. The limitations of what remains of the lockdown are making edges blurry between what we can do and what we want to do. Big news for the Church this week was a date given for the potential to reopen church buildings for private prayer. It seems a very small thing, perhaps, but for some it will mark a much-needed step forward.

In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus is off to various towns and cities doing his work – getting on with his ministry. I'm envious, still unable to visit people in their homes, shake hands or offer a hug. When we have a little we so often desire just a bit more. Keeping everything in perspective seems to be something that parts of our communities are having issues with at the moment. The question of what to keep or permit and what to do away with is a hot topic of conversation.

It is, of course, easy to judge with the gift of hindsight. What's gone on before isn't something we can change. What we can do is be really careful and intentional about how we shape our present and our future. I've been really thrilled that 21 people have already signed up for *The Bible Course* that I'm leading, on-line, on Thursday afternoons from this coming week. In educating ourselves and allowing our ideas and beliefs to be gently challenged we become responsible for what we choose to adopt as our own faith and set of values. There's still some space available, so if you might like to join in have a look on our Facebook pages or the St James' website for information.

We can't change the past. We can't undo the Coronavirus or anything else that's been a negative and darkening time of shadow in our life. We can choose to shape the future, though.

Also in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus appoints the 12 disciples. Just like them we have all, through our baptism, been appointed by Jesus – hand-picked even. The way we now live, work and worship, the way we shape the church as it re-congregates gradually from lockdown will have a stark impact on our futures, of those we love and of the dawning of God's kingdom on earth.

Perhaps give it some thought this week. When we get ourselves back into church what do we need to get back to doing as soon as we can? What things have we not missed and could do away with? What do we now desire to see and do that wasn't there before?

Let's keep sight of the growth of God's Church, as has already begun to happen in lockdown, and continue it when we can, face to face. May it come soon!