



# St Aidan's Church

in the Parish of St Aidan Sudden Rochdale  
and All Souls Heywood

[www.staidan.org.uk](http://www.staidan.org.uk)

Sunday 21st June 2020 Trinity 2 (Proper 7)

## Readings

[Jeremiah 20.7-13](#); [Psalm 69.8-11\(12-17\), 18-20](#); [Romans 6.1b-11](#); [Matthew 10.24-39](#)

### Collect

Faithful Creator,  
whose mercy never fails:  
deepen our faithfulness to you  
and to your living Word,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Hymns

Praise my soul the king of heaven  
Take up thy cross the saviour said  
The Lord will come and not be slow  
Great is thy faithfulness

### *From the Vicarage: a reflection for the Second Sunday after Trinity*

Greetings everyone, in today's gospel, Jesus instructs his apostles about the cost of discipleship. Stepping out into the world of mission, preparing to travel from town to town telling the good news. Christianity is not going to be an easy life he seems to say. In fact, you may be handed over to councils who will flog you, dragged before governors and kings, betrayed by your family, and hated by all because of the very name of 'Jesus'. People will think you are weird and will avoid you in the street. Who wants that, we wonder? Seriously, that is a hard-enough example for us to take in as regular church goers, then even harder for us of faith to explain to those unbelievers who we are trying to show the love of the gospel to. Now that Jesus has their attention—and ours—he goes on to say some things that have more comfort value. Do not fear death, for the forces of evil may kill the mortal body but they cannot kill the soul. They cannot separate us from God. God cares for us. We are loved by God. Every sparrow, and every hair on your head. In this bizarre message Jesus lays out two fundamental principles of Christianity: First, we are not spared from suffering, and, second, when we suffer God suffers along with us. First, suffering: we may not be flogged before governors or hated by everyone—but we do struggle. We struggle in this present moment: when will it end? It feels like no one is giving us a straight answer. We live in the unknown, we are confused. And in the midst of this, other suffering continues. We continue to grieve the death of loved ones, lose jobs, and experience day to day confusion and suffering. And part of what Jesus seems to be saying in this passage is that we will most probably continue to suffer. The Christian life is not a magic fix to the woes of this mortal life. If it were, we would not have the manifestation of any evil or hate in the world. Instead, everything would just be lovely. Imagine: No mass murder of Christian children in Egypt. No Manchester bombing. No wars or terrorist bombings, etc etc. And as beautiful a picture as that might be, it is a picture of the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God, what we hope and pray for, what Jesus came to earth to proclaim was coming, and—let's face it—what is not yet here. So how are we to live in this world where hate and violence are so rampant? We need the help of God. And that's the second point: our God is with us. "He shall be called Emmanuel, God with us"—remember that from Christmas? The promise made by Jesus is that we are *not* alone in our struggles. God is here, to comfort us, to help us through the difficult times, to show us the way when we don't know where to turn, to help us when we cannot help ourselves—and certainly to rejoice with us in good times. We will sometimes suffer in this mortal life, but God is with us—to comfort and guide us. So, what helps keep us on the path of righteousness? What will help tip the balance for good over evil? What can we do to overcome the negative that we all have when we suffer or think about suffering? Listen for the still, small voice of God. The God who was with the infant Isaac who grew into a great patriarch for God's chosen people. The God who keeps watch over our lives, as the Psalmist tells us. The God who will reunite us all in a resurrection like his, as we read in the letter to the Romans. And the God-made-human who came to earth to proclaim that love is stronger than death. For nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered. These spiritual truths will be revealed to *all* in God's good time. What you hear whispered, in our hearts and through scripture we must proclaim from the roof tops of our homes. 1. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, 2. the kingdom of God has come very near us, and 3. when we suffer, and we will, we have the church, the Christian community where we share our faith and "bear one another's burdens," as St. Paul said (Galatians 6:2). In this Christian life, in our journeys of life, we are not spared from suffering, but when we suffer, God suffers along with us. And carries our burdens in his heart also. Not just carrying our body across the beach as in the footprints poem but holding our hearts and souls by his side as he hung from the cross. My continuing prayers for you all.

*From your friend and Vicar Revd. Michael*



Revd Michael and Revd Ian are saying prayers for the Parish and our Congregation at 9am daily and hope that you may be able to join them at this time in your own homes.

Please pray for the [new deacons-to-be](#) who will be serving in parishes across the Diocese from 28 June. Unfortunately, as a result of coronavirus, there will be no ordination service as usual this month, but we are planning ordinations for later in the year. Please pray for our candidates as they settle into their new parishes. Please pray also for their families, friends, for all those who have supported and encouraged them on their journey and for those with whom they will serve.

### A prayer for justice in support of Black Lives Matter

God of the church, and of all Your creation.  
You breathe into us the breath of life,  
And inspire us with the breath of Your Holy Spirit.  
Yet, blinded by privilege and prejudice,  
We squeeze the very life from the lungs of our sisters and brothers,  
Or stand by motionless, whilst others work such deeds.  
Give us now, we pray,  
Contrition for our sins,  
Passion for justice,  
And solidarity with those, who across the nations,  
Cry today that Black Lives Matter  
On Earth, as it is in Heaven;  
Through Jesus we pray. Amen

Click here for [video](#) with Bishop David Walker, Archdeacon Karen Lund, Canon Marcia Wall and Revd Aaron Jackman

### Worship Resources

Live streamed church services can be found at [https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live\\_stream](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live_stream)

Audio prayer resources can be found at <https://soundcloud.com/the-church-of-england/>

Follow the Church of England on the [CofE website](#), [Facebook page](#) or [YouTube](#) for national prayers and services. This Sunday's service, available from 9am, will mark Windrush Day, recognising racism as one of three pandemics, alongside the climate crisis and COVID-19.



**Manchester Cathedral** is now open for private prayer.

The cathedral has a [video of welcome](#) showing what people can expect when they visit to pray.

For Junior Church from Elaine:

Father's Day has not traditionally been celebrated by the Church in the same way as Mothering Sunday but, given the wealth of references, both biblical and otherwise, to God as our Father, it seems to be an ideal opportunity to explore what these references are telling us about God, at the same time as celebrating our earthly fathers.

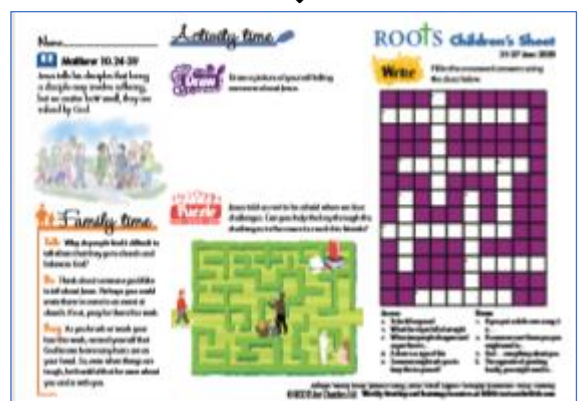


Lord God, you are the perfect Father to us all.  
Bless all fathers in the world today.  
Give them love, to share with their children.  
Give them wisdom, to teach their children.  
Give them courage, when the job seems hard.  
Give them patience, when things don't go to plan.  
Give them strength, to carry their children when they are tired or frightened.  
Give them love, to share with their children, and let it be enough.  
**Amen.**

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Resources for Adults and Children based on the lectionary can be found [here](#)

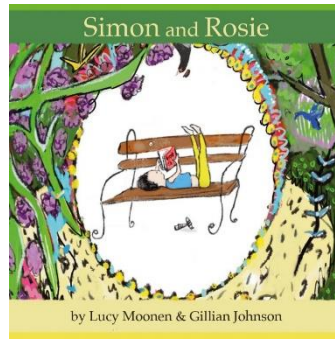
Click below for this week's activity sheet





### Father's Day Poem by Ivan

Soon it will be Father's Day  
 Don't miss it by delay  
 Thank you Dad for all you've done  
 In our hearts you have won  
 Giving us all your love  
 Doing a lot and well above  
 Helping mum and us too  
 Helping us in all we do  
 We are thankful, we are lucky  
 To have a dad so kind and plucky  
 Sometimes in our teasing craft  
 Over the top and drive you daft  
 We love you dad and always will  
 Even in the future we'll thank you still  
 To the best Dad - thank you



### New book for children

Simon and Rosie by Lucy Moonen and Gillian Johnson is a story of friendship, loneliness, imagination and self-acceptance, set against the context of Covid 19. The book aims to help create a comfortable space for young children and their adults to explore their feelings at a challenging time.

'Simon and Rosie' can be downloaded at <https://simonandrosie.com/> - free of charge, with a suggested donation to the NHS of £1.

# Congratulations

June and Alan Clarke are both celebrating birthdays next week and their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 27<sup>th</sup> June. They will be celebrating with a special holiday in 2021.

*With love and best wishes from all at St Aidan's.*



### Giving to St Aidan's Church

Your ongoing financial support is crucial to the upkeep of St Aidan's Church – now more than ever- and is very much appreciated at this difficult time. If you are able to do so, please carry on with your regular giving and contact the Vicar, Treasurer or any church officer if you would like to drop off your weekly envelopes, make a transfer by online banking or to set up a standing order.

We are now registered with Easyfundraising which means you can help raise funds for church at no extra cost to yourself when you shop online. Sign up for free at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> and select your cause as 'St Aidan, Sudden, Rochdale'.

If you would like to make a direct online donation to church you can do this from the [church website](#) or [A Church Near You](#)



**Thanks for Your Support!**

**Debra  
Treasurer**



Please continue to support Rochdale Foodbank <https://rochdale.foodbank.org.uk/>  
 You can donate [here](#)

### From the Vicar

The Churchwardens and I have agreed that, due to the continuing building work and health and safety considerations, we will not be able to open church or the hall until work has finished and a proper coronavirus risk assessment has taken place to confirm it is safe to do so. **Revd Michael Read Vicar**

Manchester Diocese has a webpage containing the latest information, support, resources and guidance for churches concerning the Coronavirus at [www.manchester.anglican.org/coronavirus](http://www.manchester.anglican.org/coronavirus)



**An update on the church refurbishment:** part of the scaffolding has now been removed and the plastering is almost complete. It should be possible to commence cleaning from next Thursday before the flooring contractors commence work on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June. The chairs will be cleaned and stored in the Hall before being arranged in church according to the social distancing guidelines. **Malcolm**

### Can we help?

Please contact the Vicar, Churchwardens or a PCC Member if we can help you and keep in touch with other church members, friends, family and neighbours in any way you can. Letters or copies of this newsletter are being sent to members of the congregation without internet access. Please contact us if you know anyone who is not receiving any communication from church.

Past newsletters and notices are available on our [website](#) and at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

<p><b>Contact Us</b></p> <p><b>Vicar</b>  <b>Revd Michael Read</b>          Tel: 01706 360693  <a href="mailto:vicar@staidan.org.uk">vicar@staidan.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Curate</b>  <b>Revd Ian Taylor</b>          Tel. 01706 355738  <a href="mailto:reviantaylor@gmail.com">reviantaylor@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Churchwardens</b>  <b>Malcolm Bywater</b>          Tel: 01706 623546  <a href="mailto:malcolm@staidan.org.uk">malcolm@staidan.org.uk</a>  <b>Alan Clarke</b>          Tel: 01706 373809  <a href="mailto:alan@staidan.org.uk">alan@staidan.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Safeguarding Officer</b>  <b>Joanne Colclough</b>          or  <b>Ann Montgomery</b>  <a href="mailto:safeguarding@staidan.org.uk">safeguarding@staidan.org.uk</a></p>
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<p><b>Newsletter:</b> please send items to <a href="mailto:newsletter@staidan.org.uk">newsletter@staidan.org.uk</a> and contact us with any more email addresses to add to the mailing list.</p>			

*Our Mission is to be a strong church family, promoting and maintaining the Good News about Jesus to the Parish and the wider community.*



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[www.staidan.org.uk](http://www.staidan.org.uk)



St Aidan's Church  
 Rochdale



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