
Becoming lifelong followers of Jesus Christ

This Sunday there will be a service in Church and one available on the [Church YouTube channel](#). Both will start at 10am.

Preacher: Geoff Lanham

Gideon – the unlikely leader: Gideon the fearful

Judges 6: 1-24



What's on this week...

Wednesday 16 September at 11.30am: Morning Prayer in church (no need to book)

Saturday 19 September from 10am – 12.15pm: Cobbles Outdoors (weather permitting).

Sunday 20 September at 10am: *Gideon the faithful*. There will be a pre-recorded service on YouTube and a service in church.

If you want to book a place in Church for this service, please phone or email the office before noon on the Friday before the service.

Collect for the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God,

your Son came to save us

and bore our sins on the cross:

may we trust in your mercy

and know your love,

rejoicing in the righteousness

that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please pray for those who are unwell including:

Kevin Evans asks for prayer that the treatment for his peripheral nerve damage will be effective and that his mobility will improve.

Anne Hewitt is now home from hospital, but is still unwell.

Stephen Andrews is undergoing chemotherapy for lymphoma.

Janet Stewart would value your prayers as she is undergoing chemotherapy for recurrent myeloma.

Barbara Lanham (Geoff's mum) who is in hospital having had a bleed on the brain.



World Church Prayer Focus

The Narthex Project is based at St Johns in Sparkhill and aims to alleviate food poverty and indebtedness throughout South East Birmingham by providing foodbanks, clothes banks, debt and general advice.

- Give thanks for the public's continued generosity throughout the current crisis by donating much needed food at collection points
 - Please pray for the safety and welfare of staff as they endeavour to meet the needs of clients and pray for new volunteers to step forward to help process foodbank donations
 - Pray also for the trustees as they work together to manage the charity in these challenging times.
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News Headlines

Message from the Vicar, Geoff Lanham

Dear friends,

I have to confess I'm not a great fan of the wind. I have memories as a child of cycling 5 miles into the nearest town, and it always feeling as though you were struggling into a headwind, getting nowhere. I always hated having to bowl into the wind when playing cricket. An adverse wind is hard work. Suddenly we find ourselves facing an adverse wind of new Covid restrictions. "Not again" we say. "How long for this time?"

I have a great sympathy for the disciples in the incident when they get caught battling against a storm wind that blows up on lake Galilee. The NRSV says Jesus "made his disciples get into the boat." Actually, the originally Greek is even stronger...literally "he forced them into the boat" Why compel them to do this? Well, this is his second attempt to get the disciples to slow down after their first foray into mission. They need a break and so does he. They are to head to Bethsaida and Jesus goes up a mountainside praying. But the disciples get into difficulties as the wind gets up. In Matthew's account, it talks of the boat being battered by the waves. No doubt the disciples were tempted to think,

"Where's Jesus when we needed him? We could have done with an extra pair of hands on the oars."

As I've thought about this incident, I've realised there have often been times when I've had similar thoughts. "Why is it that Jesus watches from a distance but doesn't immediately step in to sort out the storm? On retreat a number of years ago, I was meditating on this passage and the particular verse that held my attention was verse 48

"When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind."

I found myself thinking how often it felt like I was straining against an adverse wind in the Christian life. How frequently I felt that Jesus couldn't see, or chose not to see how pressured things were. There were times when the "adverse wind" seemed to be the sense of struggling against God himself. Maybe some of you are feeling that about not now being able to visit family or having your social contact disrupted. It's easy to feel blown off course by this pandemic. Perhaps you've had moments over recent months when you've asked God

- "Where were you when it felt like I was straining and you left me alone to cope?"
- "Where were you when it felt the pressure would destroy me?"
- "Where were you when I felt so discouraged and down hearted because of disappointments?"

As I reflected more on verse 48, I realised that Jesus had indeed seen his struggling friends. He may not have been with them, but they weren't far from his mind. He was watching out for them. Rather than abandoning them, **"When he saw...he came towards them...**in that wonderful phrase "Walking on the lake", as though it was the most natural thing in the world to be doing! I realised that Jesus was reminding me that he was often coming towards me in times of stress, but often I'm too busy, wounded, or frustrated to notice. We can feel too aggrieved and angry to realise. Yet if we would only pay attention, we might stand a better chance of recognising Jesus' compassionate movement towards us in times of pressure and stress.

Where is Jesus coming towards you in your disappointment and annoyance? Where has he been present in compassion, but you've been too weary or preoccupied to notice? Leighton Ford writes, "God pays, not demands attention. And yet the greatest wonder of all is that when we ignore him, He still longs for, yearns for, our attention." Do we notice the ways Jesus is coming towards us? Maybe it's through the support of friends, the encouragement of others, a verse that speaks to us, a sudden gift or provision, a startling scene of beauty on a walk, the smell of a flower. Yes, we're all feeling a degree of anxiety and heavy-heartedness, but the challenge in our "adverse wind" is to remain open to the possibility of God coming towards us in every moment of the day in ways we may not expect. Try to picture Jesus' compassionate movement towards you this week in your dry, difficult, boring and sad moments.

God bless,
Geoff

Staff news

Although we've experienced a lot of flux in terms of staff turnover, can we assure you that we're not becoming a permanent shrunken remnant! We do have a full-time curate coming in June 2021. I'm very excited about this person, although I can't quite yet reveal who she is, because we're waiting for the Bishop's letter of confirmation. Hopefully, all can be revealed very shortly. We are also working on a recruitment process for finding a new associate minister. If all went well, it's possible we might have someone in place within 6-7 months. So, it'll be a little while before we're fully up to full capacity, but the plans are in place. Do pray along with us for God's leading and our discernment. Thank you.

KPC Youth Corner

Penny's Youth Cafe is now open and available to Year Group Bubbles during the week (see website for more details). Two Sunday Services and three Discipleship Groups are also running (please pre-book your places on the Penny's Calendar at www.kpc.org.uk).

Penny's needs your Christmas Lego!

Young people will be creating a working LEGO Polar Express Christmas Scene in the window of Penny's for Christmas. Do you have any spare LEGO at home that you would be willing to donate to Penny's? If so please drop it off at Penny's on Monday-Thursday (3.30-5.30pm) or email the team (pennysyouthcafe@gmail.com)

Lit Residential 2021:

This summer's trip to ROCK UK in Wales has been postponed to February 19th-21st 2021 (last weekend of February half-term). The total cost of the trip is dependent on activities undertaken. If you are interested in finding out more about the residential please email Paul (paul.holden@kpc.org.uk).

Message from the Children's Team

Over the summer we have looked carefully at both Government and C of E guidance in terms of what is possible for children's ministry at KPC. Our usual groups are not yet possible as rightly the school is unavailable to external lettings for the time being, and the rules around sizes of groups, consistency of leaders, the number of spaces needed as well as the expectation that all children will follow social distancing make these groups unworkable. With all age services there could be very little interaction for the children as they are unable to sing, shout out, move around and we aren't able to use any shared resources such as our busy baskets, as well as there being a limit to numbers who can attend and we don't feel that this would be a positive or engaging experience for most of our children.

So we have decided to stay online for a little while longer until it is possible for the 'in person' gatherings to be closer to what we would have done pre-Covid 19. We have taken feedback from our families on their online preferences and from that we have settled on a 3 week cycle of a live zoom, a pre-recorded YouTube session and then a pack of material sent home that families can look at together.

The plan up until October half term is as follows:

13th Sept – Pre-recorded Youtube service
20th Sept – Pack sent home
27th Sept – Live zoom service (Harvest)
4th Oct - Pre-recorded Youtube service
11th Oct - Pack sent home
18th Oct – Live zoom service
25th Oct – Pre- recorded Youtube service

Over the coming weeks we will continue to monitor the guidance and will re-assess for after half term. If you would like more information on any of the above or to connect with the work the children's team are doing to help families nurture faith at home do contact Sarah on sarah.covington@kpc.org.uk

Other News

Christianity Explored – Autumn 2020 – Starts 6th October

A series of Tuesday evenings in October and November to look at what Christian faith is all about, especially who Jesus Christ claimed to be, and why that is relevant today. This year is a unique opportunity to bring a friend or family member from anywhere in the world – because it will be held on Zoom at 8pm (BST!). Zoom training given if required.

The first session is a taster – simply log in and see what it is like.

Do think and pray about who you could ask. An electronic invitation card will be available from the website and some printed cards will be available from the Parish Office.

For more information please e-mail christianityexplored@kpc.org.uk or text 07714 694000 and we will get in touch.

Re-scheduled 2020 APCM

Our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) was due to take place on 25th March, with all arrangements in place, but it had to be postponed just 5 days beforehand due to the Covid-19 'lockdown'.

We are now required to hold this meeting in a suitable way before the end of October. **Our APCM will be held on Wednesday 14th October at 8pm by Zoom.** Those who cannot join by Zoom will be able to join by 'phone.

Church Roll

The meeting is open to everyone on the KPC Church Roll. This was updated before the postponed meeting.

But, if you have **not** previously joined the Church Roll and are eligible to do so, you can enrol up to 30th September using the form on the [Church Roll webpage](#) ... or contact the Parish Office.

PCC elections

12 places on PCC are up for election – 6 of which also include membership of the Bordesley and Solihull Deanery Synod. The March nominations are being carried forward. Any further nominations – please contact the Parish Office. In view of the circumstances of this meeting, nominations will close on 7th October.

More details

... will be shown on the [APCM 2020 webpage](#) as we move towards the meeting on 14th October. All papers relating to the meeting will be accessible from there by Sunday 11th October.

Thanks from the Simpson family

We would like to thank you for the messages of support and encouragement we have received in the last few weeks and for your generosity. We have loved living in Knowle for the last four years and getting to know you, and we will miss you. Feel free to stay in touch with us and our new contact details are available from the church office.

Cobbles Outdoors

We will be serving drinks and cakes outdoors beside the church on Saturday 12 September from 10 am to 12.15 pm, weather permitting. COVID-secure procedures will operate. Entry is via the gate midway down the wall on Kenilworth Road. The price of each cake/drink is £1 as usual. Payment may be made by cash or card. We look forward to welcoming you!



Noticeboard

Lesvos and Dan Mort

Please pray for the 13,000 refugees now homeless after this week's fire at **Camp Moria on the island of Lesvos** and that the authorities will have the wisdom and resources to provide safe accommodation for them quickly. **Dan Mort** (Margaret and Steve's son) travelled to Lesvos last Monday to begin work as a volunteer doctor at the Kitrinos medical centre which serves the camp; the centre was destroyed in the fire, so Dan is now awaiting developments. There have been reports of some local people attacking both refugees and NGO workers, please pray for peace and that tensions on the island will be defused.

IcFem West Midlands

The information about IcFem contained in the World Church Prayer Focus last week came from Rachel Gidney who has set up IcFEM West Midlands, a group who meet to pray for IcFem and share fundraising ideas. If you would like more information or to join this group, please contact the Parish Office and we will put you in touch with Rachel. If you would like to donate to support the work of IcFem please visit the website www.icfem-mission.org and click on the donate button.

*All items for inclusion in the notice sheet – in writing and not more than 50 words – should reach the Parish Office by **9.15am on Wednesday at the latest.***

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www.kpc.org.uk