



The Bridge Group of Churches

Nackington - Lower Hardres - Bridge - Patrixbourne - Bekesbourne

Weekly Sheet for the Bridge Group of churches:

Sunday 5th July 2020, 4th Sunday after Trinity, Service for NHS

Today's Readings: Ecclesiasticus 38.1–9; Luke 7.1–10

Next Sunday is 12th July 2020, 5th Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Isaiah 55:10-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Collect

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Readings

Ecclesiasticus 38.1–9;

Honour physicians for their services, for the Lord created them; for their gift of healing comes from the Most High, and they are rewarded by the king. The skill of physicians makes them distinguished, and in the presence of the great they are admired. The Lord created medicines out of the earth,

and the sensible will not despise them.

Was not water made sweet with a tree in order that its power might be known? And he gave skill to human beings that he might be glorified in his marvellous works. By them the physician heals and takes away pain; the pharmacist makes a mixture from them. God's works will never be finished; and from him health spreads over all the earth. My child, when you are ill, do not delay, but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you.

Luke 7.1–10

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, 'He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.' And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, 'Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, "Go", and he goes, and to another, "Come", and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this", and the slave does it.' When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, 'I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.' When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Village News

NHS Anniversary

The National Health Service came into being on 5th July 1948. Today we celebrate the anniversary of the NHS by remembering in our prayers all those who work for this tremendous institution of our nation. If anything in this time we have seen what an invaluable asset our NHS is and the challenges faced by those who work within it. Let us pray that successive governments will continue to recognise, value, and prioritise our health service.

Reopening Churches

As you know the Government announced that, among other relaxations, it is now possible for public worship to take place in churches subject to certain limits and restrictions. The Churchwardens and PCCs are committed to reopening our churches as soon as we can when we are able to do so in a way which is safe and does not put anyone at risk. They have taken the decision to prioritise enabling each of our churches to open for personal prayer / quiet time for some time each week and we are actively working on a plan to bring this about within the next couple of weeks (watch this space!). Sadly at this stage due to the restrictions that are necessary and the limits of our buildings, we are not yet able to safely open our buildings for gathered worship and have deferred doing so until September at the earliest if conditions allow. Please continue to engage with our online worship and zoom meetings if you can. The Vicar is available for social distance visits with parishioners by appointment – please do phone if you would like to make an appointment (01227 206272).

Prayer Share

Revd. Raymond Gilbert Sadly, we have heard from Revd. Raymond Gilbert, who was Vicar here for over 20 years, that his wife Rosemary died peacefully at home on 6 June after an inoperable renal cancer. Please remember Raymond and his family in your prayers.

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