



## NEWS AND NOTES

### A place at the table

This week's gospel finds Jesus at a dinner party—watched closely, as usual. And true to form, he doesn't just make polite conversation. He tells two parables that turn the whole seating plan upside down.

One is about humility: don't scramble for the best seat. Wait. Let grace find you. The other is about generosity: don't just invite those who can pay you back. Make space for those who've been left out.

We talk a lot about inclusion these days, and rightly so. But it's not a new idea. In Jesus' time, being invited by the "right people" could open doors and raise status. And yet Jesus says: forget all that. Choose humility. Choose hospitality. Choose the ones the world forgets.

On Sunday morning, we'll gather over breakfast and worship with our neighbouring churches. We'll reflect together on what it means to wait for grace to firm up—and what it means to set the table for those who might not expect an invitation.

Who are we being called to include?

And what might happen if we let go of the scramble for status, and simply made room?

See you at the table.  
*Rev'd Pam Smith*

## SUNDAY 31ST AUGUST

### ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Joint Service at St Paul's – all three churches invited to worship together at 10am

**Lead & Preach:** Rev'd Pam Smith

**Prayers:** David Armsbey

**Reader:** Ruth Chadwick

### READINGS

#### Old Testament Reading (Apocrypha) Ecclesiasticus 10.12 - 18

<sup>12</sup> The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord;

the heart has withdrawn from its Maker.

<sup>13</sup> For the beginning of pride is sin,

and the one who clings to it pours out abominations.

Therefore the Lord brings upon them unheard-of calamities,

and destroys them completely.

<sup>14</sup> The Lord overthrows the thrones of rulers, and enthrones the lowly in their place.

<sup>15</sup> The Lord plucks up the roots of the nations, and plants the humble in their place.

<sup>16</sup> The Lord lays waste the lands of the nations, and destroys them to the foundations of the earth.

<sup>17</sup> He removes some of them and destroys them,

and erases the memory of them from the earth.

<sup>18</sup> Pride was not created for human beings, or violent anger for those born of women.

#### New Testament Reading Hebrews 13.1–8, 15, 16

<sup>13</sup> Let mutual love continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as

though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.<sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. <sup>5</sup>Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' <sup>6</sup>So we can say with confidence,

'The Lord is my helper;  
I will not be afraid.  
What can anyone do to me?'



<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. <sup>15</sup>Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

## Gospel Reading



## Jesus Heals the Man with Dropsy

**14** On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

## Humility and Hospitality

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup> 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; <sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

## WEEKLY CHURCH PRAYERS

### Collect

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns  
supreme over all things,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### Post Communion

Lord of all mercy,  
we your faithful people have celebrated that  
one true sacrifice

which takes away our sins and brings pardon  
and peace:

by our communion  
keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel  
and preserve us from all sin;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Residents and Visitors

Tring Walk, Tudor Avenue and Tumbling Bank

### Worldwide Church

Church of the Province of South India

## CALENDAR

Midweek services as usual:

Wednesdays 10.45am St Andrew's

Thursdays 11.00am St Paul's (Hub)

## CHURCH MEETINGS

### WORSHIP LEADERS MEETING

Weekly on Mondays at 5pm online

Next in-person meeting is **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>  
October, 7pm** at the Rectory.

### PCC MEETINGS

St Andrew's            15<sup>th</sup> October, 7.15pm

St Paul's                9<sup>th</sup> September, 7.15pm

St Peter's              11<sup>th</sup> September, 7.15pm

### DEANERY MEETINGS

Deanery Synod        14<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm

Deanery Chapter     24<sup>th</sup> September, 12.30pm

## BLACKLEY CHURCH COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NEWS

### Licensing Information

We are blessed to receive two new Incumbents  
into the local Mission Community in the form  
of Revd Hannah Rudd to St John Moston and St  
Matthew with St Mary Crumpsall, and Revd  
Sophia Makasare to St Mary Moston and St  
Chad New Moston.

Clergy, Churchwardens and Congregation are  
invited to the Licensing of the Revd Hannah  
Rudd at St John's Church, Ashley Lane, Moston,  
M9 4NT on 12<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm. Clergy are  
invited to robe (choir dress). Please let Revd  
Roy Chow know if you would like to attend on  
[tsrchow@hotmail.com](mailto:tsrchow@hotmail.com)

Clergy, Churchwardens and Congregation are  
invited to the Licensing of the Revd Sophia  
Makasare at St Mary's Church, Nuthurst Road,  
Moston, M40 0ET on 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.  
Clergy are invited to robe (choir dress). Please  
let Peter Higham if you would like to attend on  
[peter.higham@talk21.com](mailto:peter.higham@talk21.com)

Praise God for his faithfulness, and for sending  
two Incumbents to our area. This means that  
we now have a full complement of vicars in  
Blackley, Moston and Crumpsall.

### Poppy Appeal

Poppies are mounting up for the display at St  
Peter's. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

You can either leave them in your church for  
collection, or get them to Pam or Jody and  
we'll get them to St Peter's.

Patterns and collection boxes are in all three  
churches. There is more information on our  
website: [Poppy Appeal for St Peter's - Blackley  
Churches](#)

## Christmas 2025

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November

St Andrew's Christmas Fair at the Hall on Longhurst Road

### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

St Peter's Christmas Fair in church

St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival (until 14<sup>th</sup> December)

## FOR YOUR PERSONAL PRAYERS

### Those exploring Christian faith

### Those who are ill or are in hospital

- ✝ Dot N
- ✝ Geoff E
- ✝ Those we know personally

### Those getting married

- ✝ **Arooma and Petros** who will be getting married at St Peter's on 29<sup>th</sup> November

### Those grieving

Family and friends of

- ✝ **Jason Dunne** whose funeral will be on 1<sup>st</sup> September at Blackley Crematorium
- ✝ **Fred McCoy** whose funeral will be on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September at Blackley Crematorium
- ✝ Those who are remembering the anniversary of a loved one at this time.

### Those caring

- ✝ Staff and residents at Polefield Nursing Home

### Our Community Partners

- ✝ Staff and service users of Citizen's Advice

## Safeguarding Officers:

Dianne McCann – St Andrew's

Taron Entwistle – St Paul's

Karen Moores – St Peter's

## Church Wardens:

Dianne McCann & Graham Gordon – St Andrew's

David Armsbey & Paul Sykes – St Paul's

Dave Heal & Michael Scotney – St Peter's

## PCC Treasurers:

Graham Gordon – St Andrew's

Jackie Whitehurst – St Paul's

Bev Sutton – St Peter's

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Rector:** Rev Pam Smith

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M9 8NE

For **baptism, wedding or funeral** enquiries, please contact us by email

[clergy@blackleycofe.church](mailto:clergy@blackleycofe.church)

or phone 0161 264 9982, or by completing the enquiry form found by clicking here:

[LifeEventEnquiry](#)

## WHO'S WHO

### Worship Leaders:

Revd Pam Smith – Rector

Revd Jane Astley – SSM

Philip James, Helen Vickers, Katherine

Strudwick, Steve Gray – Readers (St Andrew's)

Sue Winstanley – Reader (St Peter's)

David Armsbey – Worship ALM (St Paul's)

