



THE PARISHES OF  
LEDBURY AND EASTNOR

*Worshipping God,  
Following Jesus, Sharing His Love*



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020**  
**Trinity IV**

At 10am on Sunday morning  
there will be a service on our website  
[www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk)  
so we can continue to worship God,  
read scripture and pray together.

Do take part where you are.  
We can join together at one time,  
even if not in one place.

Do encourage and invite people to join us.

Please visit  
our website [www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk),  
facebook page [fb.me/stmichaelsledbury](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsledbury)  
and twitter feed [@LedburyParish](https://twitter.com/LedburyParish)  
for updates and information  
and encourage others to do so too.

**NEXT SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> July is Trinity V**

Readings for 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020:

*Trinity IV*

**A Reading from: Genesis 24: 34 – 49**

<sup>34</sup> [The man] said, "I am Abraham's servant. <sup>35</sup> The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become great. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, camels and donkeys. <sup>36</sup> And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old and to him he has given all that he has. <sup>37</sup> My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell, <sup>38</sup> but you shall go to my father's house and to my clan and take a wife for my son.' <sup>39</sup> I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' <sup>40</sup> But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send His angel with you and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father's house. <sup>41</sup> Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my clan. And if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.'

<sup>42</sup> "I came today to the spring and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you are prospering the way that I go, <sup>43</sup> behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let the virgin who comes out to draw water, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink', <sup>44</sup> and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also', let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

<sup>45</sup> "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' <sup>46</sup> She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels drink also. <sup>47</sup> Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. <sup>48</sup> Then I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. <sup>49</sup> Now then, if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

<sup>50</sup> Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing has come from the LORD; we cannot speak to you bad or good. <sup>51</sup> Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken."

<sup>52</sup> When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the LORD. <sup>53</sup> And the servant brought out jewellery of silver and of gold and garments and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments. <sup>54</sup> And he and the men who were with him ate and drank and they spent the night there. When they arose in the morning, he said, "Send me away to my master."

<sup>55</sup> Her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go." <sup>56</sup> But he said to them, "Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master."

<sup>57</sup> They said, "Let us call the young woman and ask her." <sup>58</sup> And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will go." <sup>59</sup> So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse and Abraham's servant and his men.

<sup>60</sup> And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands,  
and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate him!”

<sup>61</sup> Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

<sup>62</sup> Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb.

<sup>63</sup> And Isaac went out to meditate in the field towards evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw and behold, there were camels coming. <sup>64</sup> And Rebekah lifted up her eyes and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel <sup>65</sup> and said to the servant, “Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. <sup>66</sup> And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. <sup>67</sup> Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah and she became his wife and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

### **A Reading from: Romans 7: 7 – 25**

<sup>7</sup> What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means!

Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”

<sup>8</sup> But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. <sup>9</sup> I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. <sup>10</sup> The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. <sup>11</sup> For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. <sup>12</sup> So the law is holy and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

<sup>13</sup> Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means!

It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

<sup>14</sup> For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.

<sup>15</sup> For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. <sup>17</sup> So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

<sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

<sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

<sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

### **A Gospel Reading from: Matthew 11: 16 – 30**

<sup>16</sup> [Jesus said] “To what shall I compare this generation?

It is like children sitting in the market places and calling to their playmates,

<sup>17</sup> “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge and you did not mourn.’

<sup>18</sup> For John came neither eating nor drinking and they say, ‘He has a demon.’

<sup>19</sup> The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they say, ‘Look at Him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

<sup>20</sup> Then He began to denounce the cities where most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. <sup>21</sup> “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup> But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgement for Tyre and Sidon than for you. <sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. <sup>24</sup> But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgement for the land of Sodom than for you.”

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus declared, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was Your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father and no one knows the Son except the Father and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him. <sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

#### **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.**

#### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Eternal God, comforter of the afflicted and healer of the broken, You have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**We pray for:** Our link CMS mission partners, our Leprosy Mission partners & S<sup>t</sup> Michael and All Angels, Mtwara and S<sup>t</sup> John the Baptist Church, Likonde.

#### **We pray for those who are sick:**

Phyl Sykes	Steve Taylor	Dean Jackson	Mike Wakeford
Barbara Williams	Sheila Anthony	Kate Greenall	Miles Oliver
Don Rule	Frances Holloway	Barbara Morris	Doulla Pittarides
Pam Robinson	Chris Nicholson		

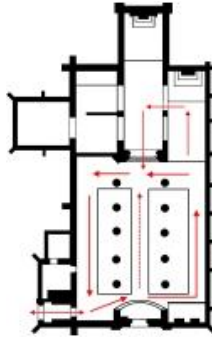
#### **We remember those who have died and pray for those who mourn their passing:**

Charles ‘Joe’ Lewis	Christopher Johnson	Rose Walters	Henry Cole
William ‘Bill’ Hunter	Joan Wilce	Martin Watkins	Leone Griškj ne
Florence ‘Peg’ Bowkett	Freda Rawle	Christopher Davies	Peter Hammersley
Vera Smith			

## NOTICES

### **S. Michael's church Ledbury is open for private prayer on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10am to 4pm.**

Thanks to our volunteer openers and closers for making this possible. There is hand gel available. When visiting, please follow the guidance for moving around the church, which is there to protect us all. Thanks. There are copies displayed as you enter the church and dotted around inside (on a much larger scale than the one on the right here).



### **S. John's church Eastnor is open for private prayer everyday.**

Thanks to Bev and Ruth for cleaning and preparing the church for people to visit again. Thanks too, to Julian for keeping the church grounds mown and cared for. Please be aware that work to repair and improve the tower has begun, with accompanying scaffolding and some noise. While this essential and good work is going in, the church won't be quite the tranquil idyll you may be used to! The work has been made possible through the great efforts of the Eastnor Church Tower Appeal (ECTA) team to whom we give much thanks and appreciation!

### **More change is on the way.**

*Churches \*may\* now hold both funerals and weddings.* It looks like our first weddings will take place on Saturday 15 August in Ledbury and Saturday 5 September in Eastnor. *Churches \*may\* open for public worship from 5<sup>th</sup> July*, subject to proper preparation and arrangements. At least one west-London church has decided not to open until 2021! We are working on preparing the church for public services following the guidelines which are being issued and updated almost daily at present. We plan to start 'small' and develop what we do, as we see what works best for us. We will begin holding one Sunday service at 10am, which will be projected. Details will be shared as things are put in place.

**CMS Coffee Morning:** We *now aim* to hold it on **SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> September**

**Ledbury TalkLine (01531 598 007)** is available from 9am to 9pm each day, offering a friendly voice at the end of a phone. It is run by a team of people from the churches of Ledbury. We are here during covid-19 isolation to try and help our community stay connected and cared for. Thanks to those who have volunteered.

**Daily Hope (0800 804 8044)** is the Church of England's free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers.

**Young Church** is suspended until further notice.

A word from our Treasurer – Cath Beech  
(to whom many thanks for her great work)

a preview of the article that will be in the next issue of the parish magazine

As you will be aware, closing the church has had an impact on our finances. We are not receiving some of our income, for example from visitors, but many of our bills remain the same. There are some ways you can help.

In March David and Keith wrote to those of you who use envelopes, asking you to consider moving to Parish Giving or to standing orders. The response was heartwarming - many thanks to those of you who considered and made a change. We would still commend the Parish Giving Scheme to you and if you want more details please contact David Kirkham or me.

There are particular difficulties with handling cash. The Lloyds Bank van is not calling in Ledbury at present so banking cash means a trip to Malvern or Hereford. Additionally we will need to ensure hygiene and social distancing when handling and counting cash.

We try to use our financial resources as effectively as possible. One way is to try and reduce our admin costs where we can. Our bank charges us for handling cash or cheques. For each cheque we pay in we pay 65 pence, and for each £100 in cash we pay in we pay £1 plus a fee for each deposit we make. We do not pay anything for electronic payments in or out.

Thus you may want to consider:

- Parish Giving remains the most effective way of giving to the church - we receive the money and the associated Gift Aid monthly, we do not pay bank charges on the money we receive and the administrative burden on the church is reduced. Our bank charges have reduced by about £35 a month over the past year because people have moved from envelopes to Parish Giving;
- If you do not want to use Parish Giving but are able and willing to use bank transfers this too reduces our bank charges;
- If you are giving by cheque, you may want to include several payments in one cheque. If you put a note in with your cheque I can allocate it between, say, the offering and tower lights sponsorship. Five cheques for £10 cost the church £3.25 in bank charges, one cheque for £50 costs just 65p!
- For some, the act of giving during the service is a part of worship. There are tokens at the back of the church which pre-covid you could use in place of money, at present they need to remain in their box.
- Our contactless card machine is available near the north door. We can claim gift aid on card donations;
- Of course, you can still use cash, but please be aware that we may reduce the number of trips we make to bank cash.

This is *not* to try and tell you how or how much you should be giving - that is between you and God - but to give you some pointers to consider. Please get in touch if you want to discuss any of them further

Cath Beech

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IS SUSPENDED.**

**Parish office: phone number:** 01531 631 531.

**Email:** [ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net](mailto:ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net)

Please visit our website **[www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk)**

**Facebook – The church's facebook page:** [fb.me/stmichaelsledbury](https://fb.me/stmichaelsledbury) –

Do have a look, like, follow and participate.

**Twitter** – Do sign-up to S. Michael's twitter account: [@LedburyParish](https://twitter.com/LedburyParish)