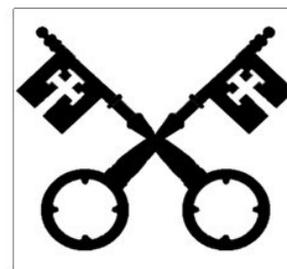


The Parish Church of  
**ST PETER,  
ARKLEY**



Part of the  
**Chipping Barnet Team Ministry**

*St John the Baptist, Chipping Barnet; St Peter, Arkley; St Stephen, Bells Hill; St Mark, Barnet Vale*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020** Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity  
**Church Service at 10.00am**  
Holy Eucharist led by Revd Nick Wheeler

**Readings for  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

Exodus 14: 19-31  
Romans 14: 1-12  
Matthew 18: 21-35



**Our Prayers  
this week are asked for:**

**The sick**  
All people with Covid-19.  
**All bereaved family & friends**

**Online Services**

**Sunday Service**

**10.00am: live streaming from St Peter's**  
On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September the 10.00am Eucharist service will be live broadcast on Facebook. If you miss it, you can catch-up later in the day using either button to the right.



Find us on Facebook  
Parish of Chipping Barnet

**[St John the Baptist website](#)**

**Daily Prayers** Monday to Thursday

**10.00am: live and interactive**  
Either click on the Zoom button and enter the password **barnet** or phone-in.



Please contact the Parish Office for details.

**11.00am: recording**  
Go to either website by clicking on the Facebook or church website buttons.



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**[St John the Baptist website](#)**

## Reflection by Linda Sanders

### Matthew 18: 21-35 The unmerciful servant.



I read a book by Bill Bryson called, 'A short history of nearly everything'; it's been a best seller. It's a science book with a difference because it's written simply. It doesn't confuse with long words or jargon and it's fascinating trying to grasp the immensity of the universe. Did you know that the universe is about one hundred billion miles across or any size above enormous? Some planets are so distant that if we travelled to them at the speed of a space ship, it would take five hundred thousand years to reach them; such magnitude is mind boggling!

In the parable, Jesus told, the amount of money owed by a servant was also mind boggling; so vast it would be like going out into space. You would be counting the money for ever. The servant owed ten thousand talents which was an enormous amount. At the time of Jesus, a talent was the largest unit of currency in the Middle East and if you had ten thousand of them you would be a multi millionaire. You would have more money than a man who won 170 million on the Euro jackpot! We are not told how the servant came to owe so much money but we can imagine that he must have had sleepless nights worrying about what he should do. He certainly wouldn't live long enough to work and be able to pay it back; he couldn't even hope to swindle such an enormous amount! So when the king summoned him because he wanted to settle the account, and ordered that he and his wife and children should be sold into slavery to pay off some of the debt; which of course would only pay off a fraction, the servant did the only thing open to him he fell on his knees and pleaded for mercy. Amazingly the king took pity on him and cancelled his debt at great cost to himself. Now you would think that having been let off so much money it would leave an impression on the servant as to how he should treat others but not a bit of it. As he left the king he chanced to come across a fellow servant who owed him a trifling amount in comparison, a hundred denari, about five pounds which would take a labourer three months to earn. He grabbed the man by the throat and demanded to be given the money he was owed. And in contrast to the compassion the king had showed him he ignored the debtors plea for mercy and had him thrown into prison. Of course when you behave like that, news of what you have done is bound to spread. When the king heard about it he was absolutely furious. He called the servant back, told him what he thought of him and had him thrown into prison where no doubt he would spend the rest of his life. This parable provided an answer to

Peter's question to Jesus about how often one could be expected to offer forgiveness. There is no limit. We must forgive others as God forgives us or we cannot hope to be shown mercy.

In Paul's letter to the Romans he says that we have no right to judge anyone else because we are all under God's judgement. He was writing about the need to show tolerance for someone else's point of view. In the Church at Rome, there were some who believed that the old Jewish food laws were now irrelevant and that Christianity did not consist in the special observance of any one day or days. Paul says, 'that's fine but if someone else is living by different principles in the matter of food or holy days, don't judge, instead try to sympathise and to understand.'

There's a programme on Radio Four on Saturday mornings called, 'Home Truths'; people talk about interesting things that have happened to them or their family. A Jewish woman in her nineties recalled the early years of the second world war when her family lived in Germany and the Nazis were rounding up the Jewish population. Her mother fearing the worst called the family into the kitchen; lit the gas oven and left the door open. Sensing what her motive was her daughter who was young and pretty said to her mother, "Don't do it I've just had my hair done," and thinking quickly said, "I want to have the chance to marry and have children of my own." Her mother turned the gas off; they cried and then they laughed together. Shortly after this the two daughters were smuggled out of Germany. The elder daughter became a nurse and treated many injured in the war. One day the matron came to see her and said, "I need you to act as a translator to a German prisoner of war who needs to have a blood transfusion." So she talked to him but he refused. "Don't you know that you will die without a transfusion; don't you want to see your loved ones again?" she said. He listened to her and then agreed. When he was well and ready to leave the hospital he came to say, 'goodbye'. As she took his hand, she told him how her family had suffered in the war and that Jewish American soldiers had given blood for transfusions. His eyes filled with tears.

When we find it hard to forgive; help us to remember the king who forgave and that it is through God's grace we are able to forgive others.



## St Peter's notices for w/c Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020, **10.30am**  
(Please note the new service start time.)

We will be celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October at a new weekly service start time of 10.30am.

Gifts of money can be brought to offer to The Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal: 'Creating a Buzz in Nepal'. The aim is to create opportunity, through bee-keeping, for Nepalese people to rebuild their lives following the devastation caused by two massive earthquakes in 2015. More details [here](#).

Or tins and dry food can be brought to go to Homeless Action in Barnet.



### Remembering lost loved ones

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 2.00 pm

An informal service of prayers and poetry in  
**Bells Hill Burial Ground**

Followed by a socially distanced picnic. Please bring your own refreshments.

For more information, please call Linda Sanders on 01707 653 963.

St John the Baptist, St Mark, St Peter and St Stephen are members of the Chipping Barnet Team Ministry

Acting Team Rector: Fr. Tristan Chapman 8440 7490 ~ fr.tristan@googlemail.com ~ day off Friday

Team Vicar: Revd Nick Wheeler 8441 9316 ~ teamvicar.arkley@gmail.com ~ work days Sun, Tues & Wed.

Reader: Linda Sanders 01707 653963 Lay Leader of Worship: Laurie Little 8441 1193

Parish Office: Tony Long 020 8447 0350 parishoffice@barnetparishchurch.org.uk

<https://www.stpetersarkley.com>