

## Prayer Focus this week:

- With the Diocese we pray for a safe, sunny and happy weekend at Spree West Midlands with lots of young people joining in with all the group sessions and activities. We pray that through this weekend young people may draw closer to God and be inspired to follow Jesus in their daily lives
- Pray for all refugees, the few who have come to our community, and the many millions living in difficult conditions in camps in countries neighbouring Syria, displaced within their own country, and in other parts of Europe.
- Pray for the work of BRVWR and similar groups across our region, giving thanks for what has been achieved and praying for the continuing work over coming months to prepare for further arrivals.
- We give thanks for all who work in our emergency services for their skills and dedication. Give them strength to face their tasks.
- With the Diocese we pray for: Stourbridge Deanery - Rural Dean: Andrew Sillis; Lay Chair: John Nicholson Diocese of St Albans: Bishop Alan Smith with Bishops Richard Atkinson (Bedford) and Michael Beasley (Hertford), Diocese of Linköping (Sweden): Bishop Martin Modéus, Diocese of Okinawa (Japan): Bishop David Eisho Uehara Pray that we may all grow in our Discipleship of Jesus as our small group continues and as we look to finding a way to prepare folk for confirmation.
- Pray for Corinne Seabridge Territorial Envoy at Redditch Corp Salvation Army as we say goodbye and she takes up a new post.

## This Week: Morning prayer Monday - Thursday

Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Drop In Bell Ringing
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	Food Bank Small Group Meeting
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Food Bank <b>DCC 7.30pm</b>
Thur 13 <sup>th</sup>	Market Research Parish Bookings 6–7.30pm
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Café open for Drinks and Cake Food Bank Young Bell Ringers
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	Bandstand Event

## This Week's Readings (Psalm in brackets)

Mon:	Job 33, Romans 14.13-end (80)
Tue:	Job 38, Romans 15.1-13 (89.1-18) Wed: Job 39, Romans 15.14-21 (119)
Thurs:	Job 40, Romans 15.22-end (92)
Fri:	Job 41, Romans 16.1-16 (88)
Sat:	Job 42, Romans 16.17-end (97)

## Band Stand Event 15<sup>th</sup> July

Please can we have donations of bottles for the tombola and homemade cakes / biscuits and Jams etc.



**St Stephen's and St David's  
Redditch Holy Trinity Team**  
www.ststephensredditch.com  
www.faithatwork.org.uk  
Vicar: Revd. Paul Lawlor. 01527 62375

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
Trinity 4**

If you are a regular member of our congregations, visiting or here for the first time you are most welcome. We pray that you will know the loving kindness of God in this place.

## Services today

8.00 Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.30 All ages Worship

## This week's Readings

Zechariah 9.9-12  
Romans 7.15-25a

## Intercessions –

## Wednesday Service

10 am St David's House Batchley

## Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:  
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;  
that with you as our ruler and guide  
we may so pass through things temporal  
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;  
grant this, heavenly Father,  
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## Post Communion

Eternal God,  
comfort 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.

## In our Prayers this week:

**We ask for comfort and healing for those who are sick:** Adrian, Ellie, Cynthia, Michelle, Baby Timothy, Walter David and Nick.

**We ask for strength and peace for the families of those recently deceased:**

## Sermon Podcast 4 – Robert Barlow, priest in charge of Teme Valley South.

I want to offer some thoughts on today's passage from Paul's letter to the Romans. Some passages from the Bible are easier to get to grips with than others. The passage today can be a bit of a struggle until we realise that the word "law" can be used for two different (but similar) things. Think of the "Law of Gravity". It simply describes how things behave. As Isaac Newton observed, if you let go of an apple it falls to the ground.

But the laws of the land are different. The law that says there is a 30 mph speed limit in a built up area doesn't mean that no one drives faster than 30. We can, and do break the speed limit. Yes, I've been on a speed awareness course! The laws of the land tell us how we ought to behave, and we can and we do break them. When, in this passage, Paul is writing about "the law of God" and says that he delights in it and that he agrees that it is good, he is writing about how God says we ought to behave. God's law was summed up by Jesus when he said we should love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbours as ourselves. That is how we ought to behave. But Paul says that even though God's law is a wonderful way to behave and that he would love to live like that, he knows perfectly well that he doesn't. There is, he says, another "law" which describes what does happen – he doesn't do as he knows he should and how he, deep down, wants to behave. As surely as an apple falling off a tree hits the ground, so he finds himself doing

the wrong thing not the right thing. That internal conflict between how he knows he ought to behave and how actually does leaves him feeling like a "wretched man".

That struggle that Paul had is a struggle that we have. We know how we should behave but, if we're honest with ourselves, we know that we don't. It's a familiar experience for Christians. It's also a struggle we aren't always very good at talking about as churches. A few months ago I was listening to a researcher who had been interviewing voters who had voted leave in the EU referendum. One, who was part of a church that had been growing as a result of migrants swelling the church numbers, talked about the difficulty she had in accepting the changes that had come as a result. In her interview she said, "I suppose I'm saying that I don't love my neighbour." How good are we as church communities in helping, supporting and accepting each other as we struggle to behave as we know we ought? But along with the struggle, Paul points to an answer. Who will, he asks, rescue him from his wretched struggle? He answers his own question and the answer is good news. God will, through Jesus Christ. It is in keeping close to Jesus in prayer, bible reading, fellowship with Christians, that we grow more Christ-like. The law of God, the way we ought to behave becomes more and more the way we do behave. The battle was won for us by Jesus through His death and resurrection. Our own struggles ease as we grow more and more into the likeness of Christ.