



Heacham Parish Church

**12<sup>th</sup> July 2020 Sunday Service**  
**Heacham Parish Church at home**

*Alison Hoyle plays New every morning is the love by John Keble, arranged by Malcolm Archer on the church pipe organ with these accompanying notes:*

*As John Keble is in the lectionary for 14th July to be remembered I have chosen his best known and loved hymn. He wrote a devotional poem "Morning" in 1822, whilst he was a young tutor (only 18 years old) at Oriel College, Oxford. Keble was ordained six years later and revered his whole life as a "saintly parish priest". The hymn we sing is just a few verses of his poem. The tune we use, Melcombe, pre-dates the poem (tune written in 1792 by Samuel Webbe). The words and the tune appeared together in several 19th century hymnals and have been popular ever since.*

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you **and also with you**

As we gather in our homes, together yet apart, we meet in the presence of God

Opening prayer:

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayers of Confession:

For the times we dash haphazardly into your presence,  
finding it hard to leave behind our cares and worries:

**forgive us, good Lord, and make us new.**

For the times when we don't learn from our experiences:

**forgive us, good Lord, and make us new.**

For the times when we don't take care of ourselves,  
or the people we share our lives with:

**forgive us, good Lord, and make us new.**

For the times we don't see what you want us to see  
and just take things at face value:

**forgive us, good Lord, and make us new.**

For the times when we want our seed planted in neat rows,  
when our own plans become more important than yours,  
rather than letting the Holy Spirit prepare the soil of our lives  
and blow where the Spirit wants to:

**forgive us, good Lord, and make us new.**

**Amen.**

God who loved the world so much that he sent his son to be our  
saviour forgives us our sins and makes us holy to serve him in  
the world. **Amen**

**Song: Praise and thanksgiving** played and sung by Sue,  
Richard, Lesley and Hilary

Praise and thanksgiving,  
Father, we offer,  
For all things living

You have made good;  
Harvest of sown fields,  
Fruits of the orchard,  
Hay from the mown fields,  
Blossom and wood.

Lord, bless the labour  
We bring to serve you,  
That with our neighbour  
We may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling,  
We would work with you;  
Harvesting, milling,  
For daily bread.

Father, providing  
Food for your children,  
Your wisdom guiding  
Teaches us share  
One with another,  
So that, rejoicing  
With us, our brother  
May know your care.

**Bible Reading: Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23** read by Liz  
Dormer-Ainge

### **A Reflection from Veronica Wilson**

Jesus used parables as a way to get people to stop and think, maybe today we might pause, wonder, ask questions and reflect on what this story means to us. The amazing thing about stories is that the same words, the same story speaks to various situations and people in different ways, the same story can speak to us in different ways at different times as well. So I wonder

what this parable, the parable of the sower is saying to you today? What is God saying to you today?

Now I love a good story, both telling them and listening to them. Whether it's about what happened when you were on holiday (remember going on holiday!), in the supermarket, at the hospital or doctors, on the beach, on the TV etc.

We love to listen to others telling us stories too, these stories can be true or not, funny, sad, shocking, of triumph over adversity, or simply about ordinary life. One of the parts of my job, I love most is listening to people's stories.

When I meet couples who want to get married, I love hearing how they met, and about why they want to get married. When I meet baptism families, I love hearing about the pregnancy, birth and life of their precious child. Before and at funerals it's great to hear the story of the life of the person who has died and how they have influenced the life of those who knew them. When I meet people out walking the dog, or in recent weeks taking my daily permitted exercise, I love to hear as they tell me part of their story, sometimes the deep and meaningful bits, other times about the weather!

There are many stories to be told of life for us during this COVID pandemic, the tragic ones of death and suffering, of heartache and difficulty, of loneliness and anxiety but also ones of compassion and care, ingenuity and community service, of neighbourliness and creativity. We all have a story to tell, as we have all been through and are still going through this worldwide crisis. These stories will be more like a parable I think, as they will be stories with a meaning, stories which hopefully make us stop and think, and change the way we live.

The parables Jesus told were about faith and the kingdom of God, and God can use them to speak to us, individually and

together, I wonder what the parable of the sower has to say to you today?

For me, it echoes something that has been on my heart for many months, and some of you have heard before!

We , need to be telling our story, the story of what a difference Jesus has made to our lives, and never more so than now. We are all living through a time like we have never known before, we need to hear stories of God more than ever before, We need to be like that farmer in the parable Jesus told and sow seeds where ever we go and who ever we talk to , telling the story of God in our lives.

We have an opportunity, that won't come again, to both listen to other people tell us their story of what life has been like for them and for us to tell what God has done and been for us, particularly during this pandemic, to encourage each other. We need to tell the story appropriately with love and compassion, sowing the seeds of faith. For some the story of God will fall on deaf ears, for others it will transform their lives. Our Story and God's Story need to be heard, by both those whose lives have been transformed by Jesus and those who have not, so let's be courageous and sow seeds of faith, by telling the story of our faith.

**Song: Speak, O Lord** sung and played by Karen, Hilary, Terry and Lesley

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us

All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
Holy reverence, true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail—  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

**Prayers of intercession** led by Ren Fargher-Smith

Heavenly father, gracious and loving whose care is so much greater than we can possibly conceive. Please give us the courage and trust to bring our concerns to you today. May the words in our mouths be a fraction of the words spoken to you in our minds and may our silent prayers be open hearted and honest.

We thank you for this beautiful world you have given us. But Father the world is in trouble. We pray for all peoples and countries at this difficult, confusing time, especially where there is appalling poverty and hardly any medical aid and there is the agony of war. We especially pray for the children in the world and give us the gift of loving empathy for them and give us the inspiration to help whenever and wherever we can.

Be with your believing Christians in these places of terrible difficulty. Keep them strong in their faith and able to pray powerfully for their situations many of which we cannot begin to imagine.

We bring to you our own country and its people. Help our leaders to make wise compassionate decisions. We pray that the present pandemic will be defeated and we ask that you will bless the efforts of all those working to achieve this.

Father please comfort all those experiencing bereavement and all who are afraid, all who doubt there is a future for them and all who are terribly lonely. In our own Church family we have brothers and sisters with particular needs and we lift them to you now. We all know and can picture now in our minds those for whom we have deep concerns and those for whom we are in various ways full of sadness. You know them Lord, those whose futures are uncertain, grant them courage and hope.

Those whose lives here are coming to an end, grant them freedom from pain and anxiety and a powerful touch of your love and assurance. We cannot be there for them physically. Help us to place our hands upon them in that holy place in our hearts and minds, asking you for the healing that however it is manifested, will be your perfect answer.

Father be with us in the coming week. Hold us close and keep us safe.

In your mercy, **hear our prayers. Amen.**

## **We pray together the Lord 's Prayer** lead by Kathryn Couzens

### Final Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word. May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and a strength to our lives. Take us and use us, to tell your story, to love and to serve, and to show others what you mean to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may he make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may he look kindly on you and give you peace. And the blessing of and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you and those you love always. *All* **Amen.**

*Alison plays an arrangement of Simple Gifts by Rebecca Te Velde (This tune dates from the American Shaker movement of 18th century (when many Quakers left NW England to settle in the USA). Unlike the East Anglian Quakers, their particular form of Quakerism enthusiastically embraced song and dance. Sydney Carter (20th century British hymn composer) wrote a poem "Lord of the Dance" which he set to the Simple Gifts tune)*

**As the PCC, the ministry team and I plan for the reopening of our beautiful church building for public worship, and plan for worship and church life in the coming months ...**

I have 2 questions for you all:

**1) What have you missed about coming into church to worship together?**

**2) What have you appreciated in the online services? (or paper ones if you read them rather than watch them) ?**

Short, quick replies are fine, as I am hoping you will all give the 2 questions some thought and let me know. You are welcome to ring if you want to talk about it too.

Thank you... I look forward to your replies! Veronica.

**HEACHAM PARISH CHURCH online service** will be on YouTube from 8am on Sunday morning  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCEfWbBrE77u7MPpdjWtwzow](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEfWbBrE77u7MPpdjWtwzow)

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 10am Prayer meeting-**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9960936343?pwd=TIerVHp3UHBzZHNTSm16QzdCNUY0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 996 093 6343

Password: 150936

**Zoom, Coffee and Chat Tuesday 11am same link as above.**

**NEXT WEEK: Morning Prayer: Monday- Thursday**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9960936343?pwd=TIerVHp3UHBzZHNTSm16QzdCNUY0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 996 093 6343

Password: 150936

**Morning Prayer Friday** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8252343468>

Meeting ID: 825 234 3468

**Church Open for private prayer**

Saturday afternoons 2-4pm and Wed 10-12noon.

**For those without access to the internet:**

The telephone worship service: **Daily Hope**, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**. This is a freephone service.

Also The Diocesan weekly podcast **Sunday Hope** can be listened to via your phone by calling **01603 537577**- calls for this are charged at a local rate.