

Rev. George is on Leave from Sat. 18th July until Friday 25th July inclusive. For any pastoral emergencies please contact Rev. Michael Fucella on 01899 229291.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP ARRANGEMENTS
ZOOM WORSHIP AT 10.30**

This Sunday (July 19th) it is our intention that Zoom-Worship will be hosted by Robert Carson from Spain—at its usual time of 10.30am.

You will find the link on the email which carries this issue of FOCUS.

IF YOU CAN'T GET TO THE SERVICE AT 10.30am OR IF ZOOM BREAKS DOWN.

We are also taking steps to ensure you can still see the service if something goes wrong with the Zoom link, or the connection isn't strong enough for you, a pre-recorded version will be posted on the Symington Church Website, where it can be viewed at any time

ZOOM CHAT. |

This will also be available.

All this information is on the covering email.



Let our hearts be the vessel of God's love
Let our thoughts be the blossom of God's love
Let our words be the expression of God's love
Let our actions be the fulfilment of God's love

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY. Some thoughts to lead us into this Sunday's Gospel reading: Matthew 13:24-30.

From the **Wisdom of Solomon**, Chapter 12. (*A book of the Apocrypha—one of a number of ancient books thought to have been written some time between 200 BC and 400 AD—some are included within some Christian Churches' versions of the Old Testament*).

V.13: For neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for all people

V.18: Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose.

V.19: Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

Those words were written before Jesus ever lived. Some believers want us to believe in a God eager to condemn, but the whole collection of scripture and wisdom shows God understood not just now but long ago as loving and forgiving.

A loving, accepting God is not just something we made up to be relevant to the world today; a loving God is not a weed of untruth. It's a field of wheat planted long ago, sometimes full of like-looking weeds grown up alongside, weeds of division and taking sides and excluding people based on differences. But we hear it in the parable. God does not exclude prematurely, because God doesn't want to uproot what is still coming to fruition. God waits for the harvest.

Maybe we're all both wheat and weeds....so closely intertwined that we can't always tell the difference ourselves.

God, our Loving Parent, does not exclude. God, the Patient Planter of our souls, does not rush to toss us on the brush pile or into the fire. God, the Cosmic Reviewer, doesn't give up on us after just a preview. But God has hopes for us, and God will assess us, I do believe it. God wants us to be the wheat and expects a bountiful harvest from our lives and from this community of Christ's people. God knows there's a beautiful crop of wheat in among the weeds.....

The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a sower who waited patiently and watched the green, summery blur grow into its fullness. May we be as patient with each other's growth, in this fraught moment. Amen

Selections (2011 & 2020) from <https://marthaspong.com/reflectionary/>

Tinto Parishes REFLECTION phone line.

The line is available to call at any time, and a new reflection is added on Friday every week.



01899 205410

A reflection from Rev. George for those who cannot access the internet or take part in the Sunday worship. Or for just anyone!

Please do pass this information on

Order of Service for Sunday 19th July at 10,30am.

Led by Robert Carson

Call to Worship

Leader Church buildings. Sacred spaces. Gather us together

**All Together (in isolation) we gather as one, though physically apart.
God be with us in our homes and houses, just as God is with us in our
Churches and Cathedrals**

Leader Come. Let us worship as God's scattered community

**All As the farmer scatters his seed, may the fruits of the Spirit be plentiful
among us
Wherever we may be.**

HYMN 189 - BE STILL FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

Opening Prayer

HYMN 548 - HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE

Readings - Matthew Chapter 13 verses 24 - 30 and 36 - 43

Reflection

HYMN 127 - O WORSHIP THE KING

Prayer for ourselves and others

HYMN 154 - O LORD MY GOD

Blessing

Time Together in Breakout Rooms

Prayer

A collect.

God of the small,
whose fullness was once contained within a womb,
help us not to be distracted by the large,
but instead to notice you at work
through the little things,
so that we too may become agents of change
in the service of One
who came into the world
not armed with strength or protected by privilege
but in the insignificant form
of a baby.

Amen.

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