



Holy Trinity Church Blacon

Charity number 1180853

18th October 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Do you like your doctor? I suspect that many people will respond “yes” to that question. And in our heart of hearts we know that the positive answer is about more than benevolent acquaintance. A person to whom we look to as a helper and advisor when we’re ill receives our respect. And the trust that goes with that respect, is part of the healing process for which we’re looking. This isn’t just about amiable relationships, it’s also about creating confidence towards healing. For many of us liking is a key part of a restorative relationship.

I suppose this is part of what my Grandma called ‘a good bedside manner.’ Others might be technically very proficient, but when it came to serious ill-health, she always sought the doctor with a ‘good bedside manner.’ This made palatable things that were painful – emotionally as well as physically. The liked doctor could even persuade her into the care of the technically very proficient but acerbic colleague, such was likeability’s power.

Saint Luke, the Gospel writer, whose feast we mark today, was a doctor. We can imagine Paul when writing his second letter to Timothy being in prison and anticipating the nearness of his execution. Although he remains confident in God, emotionally he feels abandoned, isolated, and depressed. Those are the circumstances in which he writes, ‘Only Luke is with me.’ And yet he sends for

Timothy and Mark; evidently seeing in their companionship something of hope in his painful circumstances. Is it too fanciful to suggest that it is Luke, ‘the beloved physician,’ who has encouraged Paul so that he might see the hopeful possibility? Might not likeability’s power have operated for him as it does for us?

Likeable Luke, I’m sure, is the author of the account of Jesus sending out the seventy. It is not incidental to the story that his instructions to them includes giving a greeting of peace. ‘Peace’ is a word Jesus used a lot and it was his first gift to his followers after his resurrection.

That little word means so much more than an absence of strife. Indeed, its Hebrew equivalent – *shalom* – makes plain that its meaning stretches to social and individual wellbeing. In the Hebrew scriptures it is sometimes translated as ‘health’ – an understanding that fits well with our celebration of Luke, the beloved physician. It speaks of peace/well-being in the widest possible of senses—between nations and communities as well as in families, between individuals, and within the heart and soul of any particular person.

God’s peace, in that widest of senses, is something to receive and ponder on in our own troubled times. Let that be part of likeable Luke’s gift to us, as it was to Saint Paul.

With every blessing,
Christopher.



Holy Trinity Church Blacon

Charity number 1180853

NOTICES

Holy Trinity Blacon are the living church of our living God, and we continue to be at work here! If you are able, do check the parish website www.holytrinityblacon.org (especially the Coronavirus Support page) or our Facebook page (holytrinityblacon) for updates.

SUNDAY WORSHIP We are now meeting at Holy Trinity Church at 9.30am each Sunday. Everyone will need to wear a face covering (unless exempt). If you have a cough or are feeling unwell, please do not come to church. There is a QR code for scanning at the church, if you are using the NHS Covid-19 App.

MINIBUS The minibus will be providing lifts to church on Sunday mornings for those who need them. If you would like to have a lift, please contact the parish office or Tina Upton.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ALL SOULS As is our usual practice, we will be holding a Memorial Service 3pm on Sunday 1st November for those who have recently been bereaved. We will also make this a time to pray particularly for those whose lives have been adversely impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. *Please let us know if you plan to come.*

JOIN US FOR EVENING PRAYER every Wednesday at 5pm via Zoom. This will continue for the foreseeable future. Please do let us know if you need the link for that.

HALF TERM FOOD AND ACTIVITIES As we did during the summer holidays, we will be delivering a cooked 2 course meal with activity bags for the children, to local families during half term, on Thursday 29th October. If you would like to help with deliveries, or you know a family who may like to receive this, please contact Sue Mountford on 07835006834.

DAILY HOPE is a free phone line for hymns, prayers and reflections – 0800 804 8044

PRAYING FOR BLACON Louise and Tina are taking our exercise particularly along those streets we are praying for each week. Do join us in praying for those residents. This week we pray for: *Owen Close, Shelley Road, Alderley Place, Chaucer Close, Browning Close.*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD If you are putting together shoeboxes for needy children for Christmas, they need to be completed and returned to church by 9th-16th November. If you are interested, please see <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> There are also leaflets and boxes available in church.

CONTACTS:

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Rector | Rev Tina Upton | 01244 372721 | tina.htblacon@btinternet.com |
| Curate | Rev Louise Annison | 07861 490410 | louise.htblacon@btinternet.com |
| Warden | June Middleton | 01244 376933 | june.middleton47@gmail.com |
| Outreach Worker | Sue Mountford | 07835 006834 or 01244 313799 | |
| Parish Office | Linda Tudor (Admin) | 01244 376085 | office.htblacon@btinternet.com |