



# Holy Trinity Church Blacon

Charity number 1180853

25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

One of the features of the pandemic which continues to have such a profound impact on our lives, is that all of us are potentially affected. From the wealthiest to the poorest, from distant countries in the Far East, to great nations like the United States. From northernmost Scotland, to the far western reach of Anglesey. Coronavirus can infect anyone, and at the moment we have little idea who would suffer worst from it. But there is an even greater pandemic which the world has lived for so long that we almost do not pay attention. That is an infection which every single human being suffers from, from which there is no vaccine, and that is called sin.

The only solution comes in the shape of a cross, the one on which Christ died to pay the penalty for all sin for all time. Until sin is brought to the foot of the cross, it continues to multiply, it continues to infect. The only sanitising we can do to prevent the pandemic of sin taking further hold, is to come before the cross and place all our wrongdoings there, in penitence and faith, and in order to begin to know God's healing peace working in our lives.

On this Bible Sunday, we hear once more the beautiful words in S.Paul's letter to the Colossians encouraging us to be clothed in Christ, and in His Love, that lies at the heart of the whole Gospel. It is love for the world that sent Jesus to live among us, and to die on the cross for our sakes. It is because of that perfect sacrifice that we are enabled to wrap ourselves up in Christ. Who commands us to love God and love our neighbour as

ourselves, which is demonstrated in those Christ-like qualities of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, and supremely, love. Such words as these need time to soak in and allow to dwell in our hearts, or in the words of the Collect for this day, to 'read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them'. If we are to do that fully, then not only the words we say, or the way we behave in public, but also the way we are in private, and the innermost thoughts of our hearts, are to be reflecting the same Christ-like qualities.

Sadly, our world is so full of sin, not least our own lives, that we find it hard to live up to those words in Colossians. I write this just after a very damning report into the abuses by the late Victor Whitsey, former Bishop of Chester, by Judge Pearl, was published (see notices for details). It makes very painful reading indeed. How anybody is able to abuse others in such ways is hard to fathom, but in a church leader this shocks more. And the report also describes the inadequate responses made by the church in the subsequent years. 'Betrayal of Trust' is a very apt title. It appals me profoundly. Let me quote from a letter written to all clergy on the subject, by the latest Bishop of Chester, +Mark:

*We strive... not to argue, simply repent... not to be defensive, simply love... not to be experts, simply faithful foot-washing servants.*

*Thus, in Christ's name we will listen, repent, pray, weep, care, and serve. We will provide loving hospitality, we will defend the weak; we will strive to be agents of peace, mercy, grace, and love.*

Amen.

Tina Upton



**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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

**PEARL REPORT** For further information about the report into the actions of Bishop Whitsey, please go to <https://www.chester.anglican.org/news/publication-of-review-into-bishop-whitsey.php> If you, or someone you know is affected by any of the aspects of this, details of support available are on the website, or please contact Margaret Andrews [pearl@chester.anglican.org](mailto:pearl@chester.anglican.org) or 07590 396782.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** is 8<sup>th</sup> November. Services in church that day will be: 9.30am Eucharist and 10.45am Prayers including a 2-minute silence. At 12.00pm, with our ecumenical colleagues, we will gather at Blacon War Memorial, at the cemetery, for an open-air Service of Remembrance.

**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: Milton Road, Mostyn Place, Crabwell Place, Byron Close and Thomas 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 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 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:			
<b>Rector</b>	Rev Tina Upton	01244 372721	<a href="mailto:tina.htblacon@btinternet.com">tina.htblacon@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Curate</b>	Rev Louise Annison	07861 490410	<a href="mailto:louise.htblacon@btinternet.com">louise.htblacon@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Warden</b>	June Middleton	01244 376933	<a href="mailto:june.middleton47@gmail.com">june.middleton47@gmail.com</a>
<b>Outreach Worker</b>	Sue Mountford	07835 006834 or 01244 313799	
<b>Parish Office</b>	Linda Tudor (Admin)	01244 376085	<a href="mailto:office.htblacon@btinternet.com">office.htblacon@btinternet.com</a>