

24th January 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Jesus turned the water into wine. Not just a cup-full, but twenty or thirty gallons of it. So the wedding party was turned from a bit of a disaster to a huge success, with more than enough great wine for all the guests. We may be familiar with hearing this account, so we may tend to overlook the enormity of what happened. The simple water was transformed into much more complex wine.

Normally, if you want to make wine, the basic ingredients are (as well as water) grapes and yeast, and – I am told – a great deal of time and patience. Jesus used none of those. His only ingredient was water. No time at all was taken, and nothing was added to the water. This is a prime example of the enormous transformative divine power that Jesus is able to summon. God, creator of the universe, can bring total transformation to any element or any situation or any life, even ours.

God loves us – all of us – just the way we are. God knows us perfectly, everything about us. He knows all the thoughts of our hearts, he knows where we come from, all that we go through, and he loves us enormously. He loves us far more than any human being ever could. He loves us consistently for all eternity.

But He loves us so much, that he doesn't want us to stay the way we are. God knows us so intimately, and loves us so

perfectly, that he can see all the faults within us, even those we do not want to admit to ourselves. These faults break God's heart, because they end up separating us from him. And His love is so great that he sent his only Son to die on a cross for us.

When Saint John wrote his gospel, he very deliberately described the Wedding at Cana as a 'sign' indicating that this was pointing people to the salvation that Jesus had come to bring. Jesus was born and lived among us, and died and then rose to life, in order to enable us to be forgiven for all the wrongdoings that beset our lives, to be forgiven for all that separates us from God. There is no point in being forgiven if we just continue to do the same wrong things again and again. Repenting means turning, it means changing how we are. God helps us to change, by transforming us from the inside.

Human beings are hugely more complex than water molecules, but God is able to utterly change us too. The difference between us and a water jar, is that He gives us the choice whether we want to be changed or not – He stands at the door and knocks, and waits for us to turn to him, to respond, to open the door of our hearts.

Let us each turn to God afresh, seek his forgiveness, and allow the Holy Spirit to work within us, revealing his glory more and more each day. Amen.

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 or our Facebook page ([hollytrinityblacon](https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityblacon)) for updates.

LOCKDOWN affects the whole country now, but fortunately we can still continue to meet (socially distanced) in church to worship together, and we will continue meeting at 9.30am each Sunday. The minibus is also running, so do let us know if you would like a lift.

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 are praying for: Woodside Road, Oakfield Road, Foxcote Close and Highfield Road.*

EVENING PRAYER We meet each Wednesday 5pm for Evening Prayer on Zoom. Do let us know if you would like the link – everyone is welcome to join us.

REMEMBER WHEN Over the next few Thursdays we are looking into stories, and particularly the story of our faith and how to share it. We meet on Zoom weekly from this Thursday 21st Jan at 7.30pm. You are very welcome to join us, please do contact us for the link.

FLOODS A number of households in Blacon were flooded out of their homes last week – please pray for them, and the ongoing work to clear up.

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 (<i>Admin</i>)	01244 376085 office.htblacon@btinternet.com