

## Thought for the Week

Bees hardly get a mention in the Bible, although a queen bee makes for an apposite image of the prophet, drawn out from among the people, giving order and purpose to their lives and ultimately sacrificing herself so that the colony may continue. Of course the hive could not survive without the worker bees and their waggle dance. Notice how in our reading the disciples – widely described by Mark elsewhere in his Gospel as uncomprehending, secretive and suspicious – are seen in an uncharacteristically positive light. Their encounter with Christ emboldens them to proclaim the good news, deliver healing and cast out demons with an all-consuming solidarity of purpose. A hive won't survive without a queen; it also won't thrive if the worker bees don't make substantial efforts to travel to find the best nectar and pollen. When they do find it, they don't keep the discovery to themselves, but communicate it to others for the good of the colony.

As churches it is often tempting to act in an enclosed world, deriving sustenance from within known boundaries. But to thrive we need to be apostles, flying off in various directions, not simply spreading the good news, but engaging with and learning from the wider world. Mark calls the disciples "apostles" because in our reading they are receptive to God's people, excited by God's vision and deeply connected to God's purposes by their encounter with Christ. In the same way, healthy churches will be continuously reawakened and revitalised in creatively engaging with the world, rather than withdrawing from it.

## Intercessions

**In the name of Jesus we pray for healing for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and for those who care for them.**

**We remember those who have died recently, and pray for their families and friends.**

## Praying as a Benefice

Please use the following text and prayer in quiet time; the text is from this Sunday's readings and the prayer is from Bishop Jonathan. Please pray either at noon or 5.55 pm (or both) every day.

## This week's Bible Text

In [Christ Jesus] the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God. (Ephesians 2: 21-22)

## The Prayer

Glorious God,  
You have taken hold of us and made us Your own. In the power of Your Spirit give us grace to press on in Your purposes, loving one another, learning together and living the mission of Him who calls us onwards, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Week Ahead

**Tues 24 7.15 pm Homegroup David and Peggy 8028 3154**  
**Weds 25 10.30 am Holy Communion and coffee in Nondescripts**  
**11.00 am Bellringing AS**  
**Thurs 26 7.30 pm Bellringing St M and AS**  
**Fri 27 3.00 pm Kneeler Group AS**

## Next Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018

### Trinity 9

10.30 am Christening CC  
10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship St M  
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10.30 am Service of worship and Music AS

2 Kings 4. 42-end GNB OT 355  
- Ephesians 3. 14-end GNB NT 230  
John 6. 1-21 GNB NT 119

## Please note

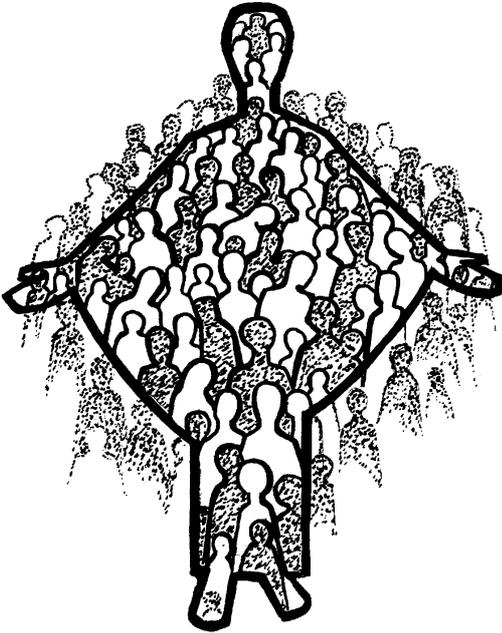
**AS is All Saints Minstead**  
**CC is Christ Church Emery Down**  
**St M is St Michael's Lyndhurst**

## Notices

### Benefice Office Hours

Monday 10am-2pm Wednesday 10am-2pm and  
Friday 10am-2pm

And if we are not in please leave a message and  
we will get back to you. 8028 3175



## August

### 5<sup>th</sup> August

9.30 am Holy Communion AS  
10.30 am YouChurch CC  
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee St  
M

### 12<sup>th</sup> August

10.30 am Holy Communion CC  
10.30 am Coffee then Morning Worship  
St M  
4.15 pm Discussion Group and tea AS  
6.00 pm Evensong AS

### 19<sup>th</sup> August

9.30 am Holy Communion AS  
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee St  
M  
6.00 pm Sunday at Six CC

### 26<sup>th</sup> August

10.30 am Coffee then Benefice Holy  
Communion and Christening  
St M

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND in  
LYNDHURST & EMERY DOWN & MINSTEAD  
Trusting Christ Transforming Church  
Transforming Community

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2018

## Trinity 8

Welcome to our gathering today!

If you wish to know more about the activities of our  
churches, please talk to one of the welcomers, call  
the Benefice Office (8028 3175) email us  
benefice@newforestparishes.com  
or look us up on Facebook, or the website  
([www.newforestparishes.com](http://www.newforestparishes.com)).

## Today's Services

10.30 am Holy Communion CC  
10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship  
St M  
10.30 am Service of the Word AS

## Collect

**Almighty Lord and everlasting God,□  
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern  
both our hearts and bodies□  
in the ways of your laws  
and the works of your commandments;□  
that through your most mighty protection,  
both here and ever,□  
we may be preserved in body and soul;□  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,□  
who is alive and reigns with you,□  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,□  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Today's Readings

**Jeremiah 23:1-6** GNB OT 742  
The leaders of Israel are castigated for  
neglecting the people. New leaders will be  
appointed who will put the needs of the  
nation ahead of their own desires.

**Ephesians 2:11-end** GNB NT 230  
Christ's death destroys the barriers that keep  
Jew from Gentile, giving us all the potential to  
be a single holy nation under one Father.

**Mark 6:30-34. 53-end** GNB NT 52  
The missionary zeal of the disciples has  
touched the nerves of a people crying out for  
a leader who will bring them hope in  
adversity.