

Connect

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st John's
OWLERTON

13th SEPTEMBER 2020

The Unforgiving Servant

This week's reading:
Matthew 18: 21-35

We've been following the journey of Peter through Matthew's gospel, as he's grappling with what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

In this week's story, I imagine that Peter is having a (rare) quiet moment, thinking to himself that maybe, now that he is a follower of Jesus, he ought to be more generous and kinder to those around him. I imagine him thinking about that competitive fisherman neighbour with the faster boat and the bigger nets, the one who is always bragging about his massive haul of fish, and showing off the bags of money he has earned from the fish market.

I reckon that the penny has just dropped for Peter, as he realises that following Jesus means forgiving and loving his annoying neighbour in a new way. I wonder if Peter is feeling pretty proud of his new attitude as he struts up to Jesus and asks, "How many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus doesn't hold back in his response, which, depending on how you read the Greek, is either 77 or 490 times. That's quite a lot of forgiveness, however we read it.

To emphasise his point, Jesus tells a story of radical and ridiculous levels of forgiveness: A man who owes the equivalent of £6.5 billion pounds is completely forgiven of his debt by the king. When he gets outside, he meets a friend who owes him £7000. He has his friend thrown into jail for the unpaid debt. When we hear the story in today's terms, we can really grasp how ridiculous it is.

Jesus is saying that God has forgiven us **everything**. We have been set free from everything that would trap and hurt us. In response to this, we need to have our perspective changed so that we can forgive and love others with the love of God.

In-Church Services and events are suspended until further notice.



What is it...? A time, space and place to encounter God as you WANDER and WONDER through creation.

Our Community Pioneer, Suzanne is leading a new initiative to encourage our church family to get out and about in nature. This is for EVERYONE and we'd love for you to all to join in.

On or around Sunday 4th October, you can head out with your friends, family or on your own, to an outdoor space of your choosing and experience God's creation in new, creative and reflective ways. Resources for October's Muddy Church session will be provided in a bag that can be collected from church (date and time to be confirmed) or from nominated homes. We can also deliver if collection isn't possible.

Please remember that new government laws require you to limit gatherings to no more than six people, unless all members are from the same household.

Suzanne will be giving us some more information on Sunday – tune in!

Sunday Services On Zoom

Every Sunday at 10am



To access our Sunday services, here is the link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/604305602?pwd=WlBiekpDRkdpbWE3UURmUTF3ZUduUT09>

Meeting ID: 604 305 602
Password: 962290



The Winn Gardens food bank now operates from the Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) building at 126 Winn Drive every Thursday 11am-1pm.

Anyone needing a food package will need to contact the S6 Foodbank referral line 0114 321 0733 prior to any collection.

We would encourage you to continue to drop your food donations to the central hub, as any foods brought directly to Winn Gardens cannot be utilised, they have to be sent on to the central hub for distribution across the local network.

Thank you for your ongoing support!



What is the Big Church Read?

It's churches, organisations, or individuals committing to read through a chosen book together at a chosen time, meeting in small groups either in person (groups of no larger than six people) or online to talk about what they've read.

The next book is *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* and the sessions begin on 21st September for six weeks. For more information and to register go to www.thebigchurchread.co.uk

THANK YOU

I have paid another £100 to Turn on the Tap. Thanks to all those who continue to fill up the plastic bottles with coins! Diane



Regular Giving

Although we are not meeting together yet, the work of the church is ongoing. While we are aware that, for many of us, finances are uncertain, we want to encourage you to keep giving what you can, when you can.

If you use online banking, you could set up one-off or regular bank transfer to:

Owlerton PCC
Sort Code 05-08-48
Account number 20012285



You can also give by cheque made payable to 'Owlerton PCC' and posted to Claire Keppas, Owlerton Vicarage Office, Forbes Road, Sheffield S6 2NW.

