

Welcome

Week beginning Sunday 8th June
Day of Pentecost Whit Sunday



Back in John 3, Jesus is visited by Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a member of a Jewish religious group who kept the Jewish law very strictly. People looked up to them as standing against the lax moral standards of the local rulers and the pagan Romans. These were the religious ninjas- if you wanted to see faithful Judaism in action, you would watch a Pharisee. Nicodemus is curious about Jesus because of the deeds Jesus performs. He comes over at night, presumably because he didn't want to be seen by others. But what Jesus says shocks Nicodemus. Jesus says very clearly that "no-one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again" (v3). Birth is the start of life, so Jesus is saying you need a completely new start. Nicodemus at first doesn't understand Jesus, asking how someone can physically be born a second time. But Jesus isn't talking about a physical rebirth, he is talking about a spiritual rebirth: "No-one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit" (v5). He then goes on with v6, which gets to the heart of the matter: "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit". This was a clear challenge to a Pharisee's way of thinking. You entered the kingdom of God by good deeds and upright lives, being a "good person". Jesus, on the other hand is saying, that won't produce any spiritual change. Our human nature on its own can only produce change in line with that nature, it can't rise above it. Rather, you need a spiritual rebirth for real change. You need the Holy Spirit working in you to see (experience) the kingdom of God. "Born again" Christians are often mocked as being fanatical. Yet the truth is that unless you are born again, unless you have experienced that spiritual rebirth, you won't experience God's kingdom. Like any childbirth, the process of spiritual rebirth may be swift or drawn out; but happen it must, or we'll be trapped in mere religion or atheism, both of which have no power to save or transform, because ultimately, they rely on us to do the saving! Every human being needs a spiritual new start- God wants us to experience the kingdom because it's where his healing, transformative love and his salvation are known. The festival of Pentecost lays down a marker saying that the Holy Spirit is here- and like Jesus to Nicodemus, invites us to put away dead religion and seek the Living God.

Please pray:

- For all churchgoers, that we may truly be born of the Spirit
- That the Holy Spirit would move powerfully among us, bringing spiritual change and renewal
- That the Holy Spirit would draw many to seek Jesus, locally and worldwide

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Back in John 3, Jesus is visited by Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a member of a Jewish religious group who kept the Jewish law very strictly. People looked up to them as standing against the lax moral standards of the local rulers and the pagan Romans. These were the religious ninjas- if you wanted to see faithful Judaism in action, you would watch a Pharisee. Nicodemus is curious about Jesus because of the deeds Jesus performs. He comes over at night, presumably because he didn't want to be seen by others. But what Jesus says shocks Nicodemus. Jesus says very clearly that "no-one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again" (v3). Birth is the start of life, so Jesus is saying you need a completely new start. Nicodemus at first doesn't understand Jesus, asking how someone can physically be born a second time. But Jesus isn't talking about a physical rebirth, he is talking about a spiritual rebirth: "No-one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit" (v5). He then goes on with v6, which gets to the heart of the matter: "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit". This was a clear challenge to a Pharisee's way of thinking. You entered the kingdom of God by good deeds and upright lives, being a "good person". Jesus, on the other hand is saying, that won't produce any spiritual change. Our human nature on its own can only produce change in line with that nature, it can't rise above it. Rather, you need a spiritual rebirth for real change. You need the Holy Spirit working in you to see (experience) the kingdom of God. "Born again" Christians are often mocked as being fanatical. Yet the truth is that unless you are born again, unless you have experienced that spiritual rebirth, you won't experience God's kingdom. Like any childbirth, the process of spiritual rebirth may be swift or drawn out; but happen it must, or we'll be trapped in mere religion or atheism, both of which have no power to save or transform, because ultimately, they rely on us to do the saving! Every human being needs a spiritual new start- God wants us to experience the kingdom because it's where his healing, transformative love and his salvation are known. The festival of Pentecost lays down a marker saying that the Holy Spirit is here- and like Jesus to Nicodemus, invites us to put away dead religion and seek the Living God.

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Readings

Acts 2. 1-21 John 14. 8-17

Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

St Laurence Church, Upwey

Flower & Art Festival

27th-30th June, 10.30am – 4.30pm

Telling the story of Creation with Upwey Open Gardens on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Refreshments.

Would anyone like to join in the flower fest bonanza at St Laurence and do a window sill or a boxed arrangement?

Flowers to be in the church by noon on Thursday 26th or if you would like to sponsor an arrangement in memory of a loved one please let Jenny Baker know on 01305 816155

Children's Art Competition

Subject is 'Creation', open to all children up to the age of 16. An A4 picture with name age, telephone number & address on the back, if not collected at school, pictures can be brought to the church on the 26th June between 10am -5pm or posted to Sally Pinhey, 664 Dorchester Rd, DT3 5LE by the 22nd June. Prize giving at 12noon on the 29th, winners will be notified by telephone.

Garden Party

Saturday 7th June 3pm in aid of St Laurence
664 Dorchester Road.
Entry £3.50 includes cream tea.

St Andrew's Church Rooms. DT3 6BU

Carrie Martin

3pm Sunday 7th September

An afternoon of acoustic music, including tea/coffee & homemade cakes. Tickets £15 from the Team Office
Please contact 01305 837147 or weymouth.ridgeway.team.office@gmail.com

St Nicholas Church, Broadway

Thank you

I would like to say on behalf of myself & St. Nicholas Church a HUGE 'Thank You' to all 160 of you who attended the 'sell out' Ben & Tom Waters Concert on Saturday & for all your wonderful feedback saying how much you enjoyed it. We all certainly 'raised the roof' & in turn the proceeds to the church raised just under £2,100 towards its repairs.

As always, thank you to everyone that helped me set the church up for the concert, helped on the night & put everything away.

Dr Jazz

7pm Saturday 14th June

Four retired doctors play 'medicine for your ears' in their easy jazz style. Tickets £10

The Dorset Wrecks

Saturday the 19th of July at 7.30pm.
Book your tickets in advance before they sell out. Half the ticket proceeds will be going to National Coastwatch Institution - Portland Bill & the other to St. Nicholas Church.

Susana Malik 07944617553 or
susanamalik@yahoo.com

St Andrew's Church Rooms. DT3 6BU

Casterbridge Male Voice Choir
& Friends

Saturday 21st June - Doors open at 7pm

Songs from the 1940's as we look back to the end of WWII. Bar and nibbles. Flags provided! Tickets £10 from the Team Office.

Please contact 01305 837147 or weymouth.ridgeway.team.office@gmail.com

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