

## From Bishop Christopher:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Many of you will have either read the Makin Report – an independent review into the Church of England’s handling of allegations of abuse by John Smyth - or seen the news coverage. Following the publication of the report, there has been much public discussion around the particular responsibilities and accountability of those named in the report. It is with deep sadness that I heard the news of Archbishop Justin’s resignation. The Archbishop has my respect for the integrity of this decision – please do pray for him, his family and for all the staff at Lambeth Palace as well as for our Church at this challenging time. For those wondering how to respond to the Review in the short term, I offer the following as practical steps that can be taken without delay:

- First and foremost, please pray for all victims and survivors of abuse. We do not need to know who they are or what they have suffered to do this – we simply need to lift them before God in prayer.
- This Sunday - Safeguarding Sunday – provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of Safeguarding, repent of our failings and give thanks for the good work that continues to be done.
- Safeguarding should be part of our regular conversations.

### A Safeguarding Prayer

May the doors of this church be wide enough  
to receive all who come seeking God and fellowship.

May the doors of this church be narrow enough  
to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.

May the threshold of this church be no stumbling block  
to young or frail feet.

May the threshold of this church be too high  
to admit complacency and self-seeking.

May this church be, for all who enter,  
a safe place and the doorway to a richer life in Christ.

Amen

**Safeguarding Sunday**

**17th November 2024**

### GATHERING HYMN: ‘Safeguarding Hymn’

1. May this place be one of nurture  
where we all may come to know  
how your endless love sustains us  
as we live and move and grow.  
May we work to build your kingdom  
full of truth and light and grace,  
living life in all its fullness  
held in one divine embrace.

3. When the smallest child is valued,  
and the strong empower the weak,  
and each human life is hallowed  
and the unheard voices speak:  
then your justice stands like mountains  
and your mercy falls like rain,  
and you hold the broken-hearted  
till they learn to live again.

2. For our negligence and failures  
you have called us to repent,  
drawing energy for action  
from the voices of lament.  
As the secret hurts long hidden  
may at last be brought to light,  
may the truth unlock the freedom  
that is every person’s right.

4. So in gratitude we praise you,  
and we lift to you in prayer,  
all the people you are calling  
to this ministry of care.  
Give us wisdom, grace and courage,  
holding fast to all that’s good,  
seeing Christ in one another  
we will love and serve our Lord.

*Words: Revd Ally Barrett – Used with Permission*

### COLLECT:

Compassionate God, our refuge and strength,  
defender of the weak, the weary, and the oppressed,  
we come to you with humble and thankful hearts.  
As your children, you call us to be like you,  
to speak up for the rights of all who are vulnerable.  
Help us as we strive to be a place of safety for all,  
May we listen to those who are hurting,  
learn from Jesus’ example,  
and love one another as you first loved us.

**Amen**



## FIRST READING

Psalm 91: 1-4

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust."

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence;  
he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 5: 8-13

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



**GOSPEL HYMN**— 'Inspired by Love and Anger' – (317)

We sing verse 6 after the Gospel Reading

## GOSPEL

Luke 10 25-37

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him

half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

## HYMN OF THE GIFTS:

'Brother, Sister Let me Serve You' – (81)

## COMMUNION HYMNS:

'Holy, Holy, Holy' – (272)

'We Cannot Measure How You Heal' – (695)

'Here is Bread' – (262)

## POST COMMUNION

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:  
may we who are partakers at his table  
reflect his life in word and deed,  
that all the world may know his power to change and save.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**FINAL HYMN:** "Beauty for Brokenness" – (54)

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, Common Worship: Additional Collects and Common Worship: Times and Seasons material from which is included in this service are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2004 & 2006 respectively. Scripture quotations are from the NRSV National Council of the Churches of Christ CCLI License No: 57904 Charity No: 1134140

