

# **CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT, No 92**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**‘Virtually Church but with some way to go...’**

## **Welcome**

Welcome to this midweek edition of Cutting Edge Camelot. George continues our series on the Beatitudes by looking at what it means to hunger and thirst after righteousness.

## **Scripture Passages**

*Matthew 5: 1-12*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

## **Reflection**

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be filled*

Our bodies need regular nourishment with food and drink if we are to be healthy and remain alive. Hunger and thirst are the two means by which we are made aware that further supplies of one or the other or both are needed.

But life is more than a matter of staying alive. Jesus said that he had come that we might have life abundantly. He came to show us how to live life in all its fullness, a deeply satisfying life that would realise our full potential as human beings made in the image of God. It is the life of the Kingdom of Heaven. In St John’s Gospel it is called eternal life. It is ultimately the life of the world to come, but a life that we can start to live in the here and now of this world.

If we set out to do that, we will increasingly find that we have a hunger and thirst for righteousness. It is comparable to our hunger and thirst for food and drink, but it is for righteousness in our own lives, and in the lives of all around us, and throughout the world.

Righteousness is not a word we often use in daily life. In the present context it refers to the attitudes, values, standards and priorities that characterise lives lived as God wants them to be lived, and the faith and trust in God without whom we are unable to live such lives.

If that sounds a bit theoretical, the prophet Micah puts it in practical terms: *“He has told you, O mortal, what is good: and what does the Lord require of*

*you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* (Micah 6: 8). That may not cover all the ground, but it gives us a good start

To “do justice” requires us to be truthful and honest in our dealings, to obey the law, and to treat other people fairly and with due respect for their legal and moral rights. There are also times when we need to remember the two principles of natural justice. No one is qualified to judge where their own interests are affected (in which case consult a wise friend and be guided by them); and no one should decide against another person, even in their own minds, without having heard that person’s side of the story. We have to avoid jumping to conclusions before we have got all the relevant facts, and have got them right - which is not always easy. We need to be clear-eyed, unprejudiced, and yet avoid the cynicism that doubts everything and trusts no one.

To “do justice” may be all that a judge in a court of law is allowed to do. We have to go further, because righteousness transcends human ideas of justice. We have also to love kindness (the word in the Authorised Version is mercy). God’s justice is always tempered by the mercy and forgiveness that flow from his limitless, unconditional love. In the same way, we are to show kindness or mercy by forgiving. We are to love doing so, not grudgingly but gladly and generously, however often we have to and however much there is to be forgiven. God commands us to do this as much out of his love for us as for the sake of the person we forgive.

And we are to walk humbly with our God. Jesus said that to enter the Kingdom of Heaven we have to be like little children. In ourselves, we have neither the wisdom nor the strength needed to live the righteous life of the Kingdom. We have to trust God to help us, in the way that a little child will trust a loving parent. So, to adapt some familiar words, we are to embark on each day, with the uncertainty of what it will hold, by putting our hands

into the hand of God; that will be “better than light and safer than a known way”.

To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to pray for God’s grace and presence in our lives. Our prayer will be answered in the here and now. But if to be “filled” means that that hunger and thirst will be finally satisfied, we may have to wait for life in the world to come.

*George*

## **Vimeo**

A Camelot service for the First Sunday in Lent is available to watch on Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/514774244> .

## **The Big Church Read**

The Big Church Read is a great opportunity to bring Christians together across the country to read books together. It contains online videos, reading plans and discussion questions to enhance the reading experience. The current book chosen for reading and discussion is Singing in Babylon: Finding purpose in life’s second choices by Jeff Lucas. For more information please see:- <https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/>

## **Giving in Lent**

The Kisumu Children Trust is a charity for children in Kenya. The Camelot Group has supported this charity in previous Lents and we would like to do so once again in this Lent.

Our parishioners in Galhampton, Mike and Katherine Dare, have been trustees and actively involved with Kisumu for a number of years. They write as follows:-

‘2020 has been a challenging year for Kisumu Children, as with all charities, and of course for our churches across Camelot, though thankfully Kenya has thus far been saved from the extreme ravages caused by Covid-19. In addition, an initiative sponsored by UNICEF and the Kenyan Government is requiring us to redirect the Christian love, care and witness we provide in our children’s home towards continuing to support the children in this way but in their own rural homes or with extended families rather than in our home. This will be a real challenge for our ministry over the coming years and may well see us working more closely with local churches in Kisumu and the local school. We hope too to be able to facilitate a link between the local school there and the North Cadbury school here, which we know Lisa would like to achieve, once Covid pressures have reduced.’

If you wish to give an online donation the BACS details are: The Kisumu Children Trust; Sort Code 40-52-40; Account no. 00011583. The charity banks with CAF Bank. Could you please include the reference “Camelot” on donations made by BACS. Gift Aid authorisations can also be provided for completion if requested.

Please make cheques payable to Kisumu Children and send them to:-  
Kisumu Children Trust, The Old Post Office, 1, Thorpe Avenue, Tonbridge, TN10 4PW.

### **Supporting our community**

*North Cadbury Church of England Primary School*

Our Head Teacher Lisa Thompson reports as follows:-

‘I am delighted to report that we have received many donations of cash, cheques & book tokens. So please could you pass on our huge thanks and let people know that we have been able to ensure that every household at school has received a good quality reading magazine through the post this half term. A sizeable book order has also been placed with delivery due this Monday.’

So many thanks to all who have contributed in this way. If you have further donations that you would like to give please make a donation direct by BACS transfer the School's details are:-

Account Name:- North Cadbury Church of England Primary

Sort Code:- 30-99-98

Account No:- 65255268

Please use the reference 'Lockdown Books'.

If anyone would like to donate to the school some pre-owned books these will also be gratefully received. However, these will need to be of good quality and less than ten years old.

### *The Lord's Larder*

The Lord's Larder is one of our local foodbanks based in Yeovil. In many of our villages we have central collection points for food to be taken to the Lord's Larder and to other local foodbanks. They are immensely appreciative of the support and of food which is given in this way.

However, they also need financial contributions so that they can buy additional food as needed. If you would like to contribute in this way you can do so by setting up a Standing Order in favour of the Yeovil Christian Support Trust. Their bank details are Unity Trust Bank Plc, Birmingham, Sort Code 60-83-01, Account No 20211112. It is possible to increase the value of these donations by claiming Gift Aid.

### **Points for Prayers**

- To grow in our hunger and thirst for righteousness
- The restrictions of the third lockdown and sustaining our common life in this time

- Clear planning for future church life in the light of the government's timetable for the easing of restrictions
- Give thanks for progress in the roll out of the different vaccines in combating coronavirus and for the falling rates of infection
- Thanksgiving for care, skill and courage of NHS workers and those in care homes
- Those suffering from coronavirus in hospitals, care homes and at home
- Our Bishops (please see notice below)
- For North Cadbury Church Primary School and other local schools as they prepare for reopening
- For the work of Kisumu Children Trust
- Prayers for those who are lonely or housebound
- Prayers for those affected economically by the lockdown, for businesses and those who have become unemployed
- Prayers and thanksgiving for contributions to the foodbanks and for those helping to take these to the foodbanks.

### **Suspension of services**

Services across the Camelot Group have now been suspended as sadly we concluded that it was not possible to hold them safely in the current circumstances. The suspension of services will be kept under review as circumstances change.

### **Excalibur**

The February edition of Excalibur is now online at [camelotparishes.co.uk](http://camelotparishes.co.uk)

## **The Parish Office**

The Parish Office is closed although Rob does come in regularly. In his absence please contact Rob via email ([office@camelotparishes.org.uk](mailto:office@camelotparishes.org.uk)) or on 01749 850934.

## **An inclusive Communion celebrated on behalf of the benefice**

During the third lockdown as in the others Ron and Pam will be celebrating Communion regularly in their home each Sunday at 10.00 am. Please be aware of this because even though no-one can join them they are praying for us all and hope that you will feel included in this act of Communion.

## **Update on Bishop Peter**

We have no further news to report on Bishop Peter since we heard that the stem cell transplant had been completed. We will keep you further updated as and when we have any more news. In the meantime please do continue to keep him and his family in your prayers. This is much appreciated.

*Growing as a worshipper, a servant and a family*

*We pray that 'we might live in love,  
as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us'*

(Ephesians 5:2)