

<p>Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches</p> <p>Feltham Ecumenical Parish: Anglican and Methodist Churches in partnership</p>	<p>Sunday 15 November 2020</p> <p>Second before Advent</p>
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Today's Gospel reading is the parable of the talents, and follows the parable of the ten virgins which is a story about how important it is to be ready for the return of Jesus. The talents story, one of investment, tells us *how* to be ready. The kingdom of heaven is like a man who went away. The man was wealthy and he wanted his wealth to increase in his absence. He called his servants whom he trusted and gave them large sums of money to use, in the form of talents. A talent was then worth 6000 denarii; it would take a worker 20 years to earn one talent.

The man gave different amounts to the servants according to their capabilities: therefore, 5 to the most capable, 2 to a less able servant and 1 to the least able. He gave them no special instructions; he left them and went away.

The servant with 5 talents traded to make 5 more, whilst the servant with 2 talents did the same and made 2 more. The servant with 1 talent was afraid to trade so dug a hole and buried it. It was common for an owner to bury his valuable things since people did not have safe places to put them.

After a long time the master came home. He called in the three servants to show him what they had done with his money. The first two told him they had doubled the talents and he was pleased with them. He said to each of them the same words, "Well done, you good and faithful servant" and rewarded them with greater responsibility. The third servant came in and gave the one talent to his master. He gave his excuses for not using the talent and his master was angry with him, for he was lazy because he did not work with the money.

The one talent was given to the one who had ten talents as he had proved reliable. This is a principle in the kingdom: God gives gifts to his children to use for his glory. If we fail to use God's gifts, we will lose them. However, if we use them he entrusts us with more.

Derek Perry

Taken from: easyenglish.bible

Church Notices: Southville Methodist

In line with the government's decision, there will be no services in church until Sunday 13th December. Meanwhile the Staines **Zoom Service** continues each Sunday at 10.30am. Contact Matt Sendorek (matt.sendorek@btinternet.com) for an email invitation, or Roz Sendorek on 01784 459984 or 07712 816163.

Circuit Bible Study by zoom on Thursdays starting at 9.30am studying Matthew. Please contact Jonathan Griffiths for details to join – you can join by phone. Email contact: jonathan.griffiths@sfmc.org.uk

Church Notices: St. Dunstan

There will be no services in church until Sunday 6th December.

The **Sunday Zoom service** takes place every Sunday at 10.30am. Enjoy praying together, chatting before and afterwards, and (a treat nowadays) singing hymns together with choir and organ accompaniment - and not a mask in sight! All are welcome; phone or email the parish office for details of how to connect from computer, smartphone or tablet.

Bible Study by zoom: 8pm Monday 30th November, currently studying Philippians. Please contact Anne Dollery for details of how to take part (remotely).

St Dunstan's will be open for private prayer on Thursday 19th November and Thursday 26th November 10.30am-12.30pm.

Suggesting **Zoom afternoon tea/coffee and chat in November** – if you would be interested in joining by zoom – which can include by phone - for a social chat for 30-45 mins please let Anne Dollery know on 0208 890 8347. Wednesday 18th November 3.30pm.

Bishop's Graham's **video of encouragement** in this new lockdown has been send out with this mailing and is on our website.

Bible Study by shared notes: Au revoir to Abraham – we will now jump over to the New Testament and study Colossians. Anyone wanting to join us and receive an email or paper copy by post please contact Anne Mills-Roberts on: 01784 613357

The **Ashford Christmas Trail** is planned for Sunday 6th December and Nicola Whate will be selling craft items made by Susan Collins to raise funds for St. Dunstan's. If anyone would like to contribute other home-made goods – cakes? jam or chutney? – please let Nicola know and she will collect them.

Calling **online Christmas shoppers:** don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising website when you're buying your Christmas gifts online this year. It is really easy to use and St Dunstan's stands to gain financially at absolutely no extra cost to you. Simply go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and navigate from there to John Lewis, Argos, Amazon, EBay, Next, M&S, booking.com and the list goes on, with over 2,700 companies included.

Invitation to a month of prayer:

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting Christians across the nation to participate in a month of prayer during the current lockdown.

Prayers at 6pm: Christians are encouraged to pray daily for a specific area of national concern, wherever they are, culminating in a collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening. In London, we are invited to pray at 6pm on our doorsteps for our neighbourhood, and also for the National prayer points:

Sunday – Family, friends and loved ones

Monday – Schools and colleges, children and young people

Tuesday – Elderly, isolated and vulnerable

Wednesday – Businesses, the workplace and economic wellbeing

Thursday – The NHS and other key workers

Friday – National and local governments

Saturday – All who are grieving and all suffering with physical or mental ill-health

Cathedrals and churches across the country invited to ring a bell at this time. Prayers and other resources will be shared on social media with the hashtag #PrayerForTheNation. Resources can also be found here: churchofengland.org/PrayerForTheNation.

Thursday lunchtime prayers: The Diocese of London invites us to come together every Thursday with a time of prayer at 1pm, led by our senior leaders.

When: 1pm – 1.20pm on Thursdays throughout November

Where: Join with others in our Diocese on [Facebook](#) live, or on zoom (the link will be posted on the site 30 mins before).

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

Dates for your diary

Monday 23rd November 7.45 for 8pm: **St Dunstan's PCC** meets on Zoom.

Tuesday 24th November, repeated on Monday 7th December, 7pm to 8.30pm: **Bishop of Kensington's teaching evening**. Subject this year is 'What is true freedom?', examining the

differences between secular and Christian ideas of freedom. The Bishop is known as a lively and accessible speaker who encourages interaction. Book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-is-true-freedom-why-freedom-may-not-be-what-you-think-it-is-tickets-126125931055> and the Zoom link will be emailed to you.

Online series of short retreats, run by St Augustine's Theological College, West Malling, Canterbury. The first started 18th October, the last next June. Brief details are available in printed form from Rachel Stuchbury if you want them. The retreats are free but you are required to register. They seem to provide a recorded address (or possibly several) with materials for you to use for reflection.

Many thanks to those who contributed waterproof coats or trainers for clients of the West Hounslow Food Bank; they were very warmly received (sorry about the pun).

And a joke because we're locked down again (there's nothing like a good groan to keep your spirits up?)

A man is driving down the road when he is pulled over by a policeman, who then notices three penguins sitting side by side on the back seat. "How do you come to have three live penguins in your car, sir?"

"Oh, I found them standing by the road", explains the driver, "and now I don't know what to do with them."

"Well, sir", says the policeman, "my advice would be to take them to the zoo."

The next day, the policeman stops the car again and is astonished to see the penguins still sitting on the back seat, now wearing sunglasses. "I thought I suggested you take them to the zoo?", he enquires.

"Oh, I did", explains the man, "and they enjoyed it so much that today I'm taking them to the seaside."

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