



Sunday 20th August 2017 / 10th Sunday After Trinity

I have always struggled with the idea that "if you please God, he'll look out for you". That seems to diminish God to something of a cause-and-effect robot, or a human-made lucky charm. At first glance, this is what this week's readings and collects suggest.

Re-reading the Gospel several times over, I begin to see a bigger picture. I cannot tell if Jesus is testing the faith of the Canaanite Woman (rather like last week's story of Peter walking on the lake), or if he is partnering with her to show-case the new Kingdom. His kingdom is for far more than just the "lost sheep of Israel": it included foreigners, women, and those in contact with people living with mental illness: all those officially and formerly regarded as "outsiders". The only "membership criteria" for this new Kingdom, comes from within the person themselves; a wish and willingness to believe.

~ Sylvia Fox

Worship In The Parish Today

St Nicolas'	9:00am	Holy Communion
	10:30 am	Holy Communion w/ Baptism
	4:00pm	Baptisms
	6:00 pm	Compline
Hawkesley	10:30 am	Holy Communion
Immanuel	10:30 am	Holy Communion

This Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 56.1, 6-8	OT p 696
Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32	NT p 156
Matthew 15.10-28	NT p 16

Collect for today

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Children & young people are welcome at every service.

Tiny Tots: Thurs. 9.00 am
Bumps & Babies: Mon 1.00 pm
BOTH AT ST. NICOLAS' CHURCH

Sundays for Children (3yrs+)

1st Sunday - Oasis at Saint Nicolas' Place
2nd Sunday – All Age at St Nicolas' Church
3rd Sunday - Godly Play @ SNP
4th Sunday - All Age @SNP

**Next GPS Youth Group:
September 6th**

Afternoon Tea In St Nicolas Church

9th September 2017
2pm to 5pm

Tickets are £3.

Available in Church or from the Parish Office.

All proceeds to the Roof Fund.
To donate – back of church, pledge cards or cheques made out to "KNPCC"



We invite all students, whatever their age, and teachers to bring their school bags to our **Blessing of the School Bags service on Sunday 27th August at 10:30**. Begin the new academic year surrounded by love and prayers. We invite everyone to buy a small amount of stationery to be donated to those in our linked church in Bolivia.

There will be no activities for children on Sundays during August. No GPS until 6th September. Bumps and Babies and Tiny Tots continue all summer.

Foodbank news: With wonderfully generous personal and group gifts over the last month, we've more or less kept demand and supply on an equal footing: but we still have a need for tinned meat, tinned/packet custard, long-life whole milk, tinned fruit, instant potato and tinned tomatoes. Many thanks as always.

Saint Nicolas' Place. Our tearoom is open Mon - Sat 9.00 am - 4.00 pm. Green's Tea Room for excellent food and service. The shop is open from Monday to Saturday, 10.00 am - 3.00 pm. For events & bookings call 0121 458 1223. Or visit saintnicolasplace.co.uk.

