

# St Francis Weekly News for SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020



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## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ST FRANCIS CHURCH?

### WELL DONE TO RETIRING FUNDRAISERS!

I was listening in to Radio Norfolk the other morning when I happened to hear some familiar names mentioned. Turning up the volume I was really pleased to hear a certain Janice Pound talking about the fifteen years of fundraising for The National Kidney federation that she has been involved in alongside Brenda Minns and Beryl Smith.



Brenda, Beryl and Janice pictured with Pete Revell from the National Kidney Federation

These three are all much loved St Francis folk, and their fundraising stalls selling craftwork and knitwear have been a popular feature at the various fetes and fairs that have happened in St Francis over the years.

As they step back from regular fundraising Brenda, Beryl and Janice take great joy in the fact that they have raised over nineteen thousand pounds for the cause that is so dear to their hearts – and how proud we are at St Francis to congratulate them on this amazing achievement.

The trio became involved in the Norfolk Kidney Foundation after being touched in their own lives by the devastating loss of loved ones to kidney

disease and it is heartwarming to hear their inspirational story told at a time when we all need to hear good news.

Their triumph of hope over adversity is a wonderful example of overcoming the sadness of loss with loving practical action and dedicated commitment.

I'm sure that you join with me in extending our deep thanks to Brenda, Beryl and Janice for all that they have achieved and wish them well as they take a step back from the hard work they've willingly undertaken over the past fifteen years.

Although that said, when talking to Brenda she assures me that she and her friends will be continuing on with charity fundraising in the future – why am I not surprised?

### THE CREATIONTIDE WINDOW DISPLAY



Week One



Week Two



Week Three

Oh dear.... The ice cap has almost melted away, the waters are rising, and poor Revd Winnie has had to retreat to the high ground. Can the situation get any worse?

Keep watching the window for the latest news on what's happening in Revd Winnie's world this creationtide.

### WHERE'S EYORE?

As you may already know, Rev Winnie reappeared from holiday a couple of weeks ago, but there was no sign of Eeyore. Since then there have been two short messages; it seems that Eeyore lost Winnie on Milan station and then got on a train to Assisi thinking that it would bring him home. Instead he was even further away. We heard nothing more, but then this letter arrived.

*Dear Rev Winnie*

*You won't believe this!*

*Remember that nice man dressed all in brown who helped me at Assisi station.?*

*I thought he was taking me to our church, but after a long walk I discovered that he had brought me to the tomb of the real St Francis!*

*I am so excited. This is the most incredible place, dear Winnie. You must come here too. I've been hearing a voice calling me to something, something very beautiful.*

*I think the voice is telling me to change my life. I'm learning so much and don't want to leave, but don't worry, I will make my way home soon and tell you all the exciting things I've discovered.*

*I'm really starting to miss everybody now.*

*Love Eeyore*

*PS St Francis of Assisi is called that because he was from Assisi. I thought you might like to know that.*

Eeyore seems very confident all of a sudden, and we hope he's right about being back soon. Until he is, we'll be praying for his safe return..



The Tomb of St Francis of Assisi

### THE CURATE'S CORNER

On Monday of this last week we celebrated the feast of St Matthew, and on that day at morning prayer I contemplated the way that Jesus accepted Matthew the tax collector but turned him well away from the lure of money and riches to follow Him. I was struck by how very relevant a message this is in the current season of Creationtide; so much ecological damage is caused by the pursuit of wealth. We can all make a very positive contribution to slowing down climate change and carbon emissions by learning to be contented with less – a very Christ-like, and Franciscan, world view.

Our church is named after St Francis, and so he is our patron saint; his feast day falls on October 4<sup>th</sup> – and speaking of which, I will soon be putting up new posters with more of Enid Chadwick's delightful drawings showing the 'saint's days' in October on the notice boards outside the church.

The feast of St Francis is therefore also our 'patronal festival', and we are looking forward to celebrating accordingly. You probably already know by now about our free all age activity packs that are full of resources and information about St Francis and the Franciscan way of life; if you don't, why not pop in and pick one up? They are equally suitable for children and adults.



The San Damiano Cross

St Francis was called to the service of Christ when he sat contemplating an old cross in a little run down church near Assisi in Italy, called San Damiano. It seemed to Francis that the image of Christ painted on the cross spoke to him, and asked him to 'rebuild His church'. Francis took this literally to mean the little church he was sitting in, and he did so, stone by stone, attracting help from others. This was how the early 'Franciscan Order' grew. Later, Francis came to realise that he had been called to rebuild the entire church throughout the world, and he succeeded in many ways. The cross he contemplated has come to be known, not surprisingly, as a San Damiano cross, and this is why we have a large one hanging in our church:

The original of this cross still hangs in the Basilica of St Clare in Assisi, and a replica is in the old church of San Damiano that Francis rebuilt. It was probably made around 1100, and is known as an 'icon' cross; its intention was to teach important elements of the faith to new believers. There are many stories embodied in the beautiful imagery and even a small amount of time spent learning about what these stories are is very profitable and helps to inform and strengthen our faith. It is also interesting that the figure of Christ does not suggest suffering as we might expect to see now – this did not become common until much later. Instead, there is a calm serenity and a sense of power but at the same time acceptance. This is because that artist wanted to represent Christ as the victor, standing in triumph over death and the devil, and offering us forgiveness for our sins should we choose to follow Him.

A key message of Francis is, like Matthew, the turning away from possessions and the living a life that stresses simplicity and holiness. Looking at the world today, maybe that message is even more relevant and necessary than ever.

Every blessing,

**Fr Tracy**

**FORTHCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY:**

**CREATIONTIDE SUNDAY EVENING PRAYERS**  
Every Sunday 5.00pm

**ST FRANCIS DAY SERVICES**  
4<sup>th</sup> October  
10.30am – Patronal Festival  
5.00pm – Evening Prayer

## EXPLORING THE SAN DAMIANO CROSS

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30



An opportunity to join together via the zoom room or in church [restrictions apply] as Fr Tracy invites us to look deeper into the cross that spoke to St Francis.

The link for the zoom room is below:

Time: Oct 7, 2020 19:30 London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89418679148?pwd=UFkyWGtWRjhFTm9mTDF5ZGhab1ZHQT09>

Meeting ID: 894 1867 9148

If you do not have access to zoom a very limited number of places are available to attend in person following covid safe practice. Please contact Revd Janet for further details.

## CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Following on from discussions with the Bishop's office, we are now about to relaunch our confirmation preparation sessions.

If you have ever thought about being confirmed; or would like to know what it means to make a commitment to Jesus by being confirmed into the Church of England please contact Revd Janet or Fr Tracy. We will be very pleased to hear from you.





## ST FRANCIS FREE FOOD AND COMMUNITY FRIDGE

We are now in the process of closing down St Francis Free Food and well on the way to setting up an alternative way of assisting those who find themselves in need of food assistance.

As we move forward in this time of transition please be assured that we will be making every effort to ensure that should the need ever arise again St Francis Church will be in a position to offer timely support and practical help.

As we wind down St Francis Free Food if you or someone you know is in need of a helping hand the 24/7 answerphone 01603 431259 is still available and the church building will continue to be staffed every week day morning between the hours of 10am – 12pm.

For the time being we will continue also to make available any foodstuffs that we have by means of the table placed outside the church building.

Over the past few months tons and tons of food have been given away via the Food hub and Fareshare projects and although the amounts of food made available to us has dwindled, the goodwill and dedication of our collectors has remained constant.

I extend of thanks to them for all that they have done to serve the Heartsease community and play a part in the effort to change attitudes to food waste.



## PASTORAL CARE MATTERS

With restrictions, regulations, and the situation with infection rates changing almost daily it is natural we will all of us be feeling anxious one way or another.

If you are worried about any of the changes that are happening, or if you need some assistance of any kind please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We are very happy to talk with you if that would be helpful.

Please do not feel that you are alone - help and support is always available, whatever may be troubling you.

Revd Janet [07990 576118]  
Father Tracy [07704 328319]  
Eleanor [07840 206716]

Also, there is always someone available in the church building weekdays 10.00am – 12.00pm; please feel free to knock at the door, it will open to you.



## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Childline: 0800 1111

Samaritans: 116 123

Domestic Violence Hotline: 0808 2000 247

[If you hear a neighbour in distress please do not hesitate to call this number or 999; you could save a life]

Mind: 0300 123 3393

Age UK: 0800 169 6565

## A WORD FROM THE VICAR

As Fr Tracy has already mentioned in the Curate's Corner, that Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October is St Francis Day and the culmination of the season of Creationtide. We will be marking this celebration day with a special service, a time of sharing some St Francis stories and hopefully with one or two surprises.

If you haven't been to church for a while, this would be a great day to come along and get involved.

Although these are trying times, they are also times where there is much to do in the service of our community and more importantly in making sure that the good news of Jesus is shared with those who need to know that they are loved and that there is always hope – whatever the situation we may find ourselves in.

So, please do think about coming to church on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. There is plenty of room to socially distance, we can supply you with a face covering, and there are old friends to catch up with; especially our very best friend of all – Jesus.

God's blessing be with you and yours

*Revd Janet*



## FOR OUR PRAYERS

We pray for those who are in acute need of prayer at this time: David & Cynthia S; Darren L; Maegan; Doreen F; Tom; Riley & his mum and family; Jeanette, David & Grace; Paula; Colin; Pete; Lauren; Fr Brian; Hazel; Ben; Frazer.

We continue to pray for all those in our Church, friends and family who are managing long term health issues including Rosemary, Sheila, John, Joy, Shirley.

We remember with love Maureen; Robin and all those who have died in recent days and pray for their family and friends.

## CREATIONTIDE THANKSGIVING

We thank God for the world he has made, and for all his love and care.

For the warmth of the sun,  
Father in heaven  
we give you thanks and praise.

For the rain which makes things grow,  
Father in heaven  
we give you thanks and praise.

For the woods and the fields,  
Father in heaven  
we give you thanks and praise.

For the sea and the sky,  
Father in heaven  
we give you thanks and praise.

For the flowers and the animals,  
Father in heaven  
we give you thanks and praise.

For families, friends and the gift of love,  
Father in heaven  
we give you thanks and praise.

For all your gifts,  
Father in heaven  
we give you thanks and praise.  
Amen.



## THE CREATIONTIDE ACT OF COMMITMENT

As the whole creation looks with eager longing for the redemption of humankind, let us pledge ourselves anew to serve our creator God, the Father who is the maker of all things, the Son through whom all things are made, and the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who renews the face of the earth.

Let us together affirm our commitment to care actively for God's creation

### We Say Together:

Lord of life and giver of hope,  
we pledge ourselves to care for creation,  
to reduce our waste,  
to live sustainably,  
and to value the rich diversity of life.  
May your wisdom guide us,  
that life in all its forms may flourish,  
and be faithful in voicing creation's praise. Amen

## PRAYER FOR THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Church of St Francis  
Heartsease



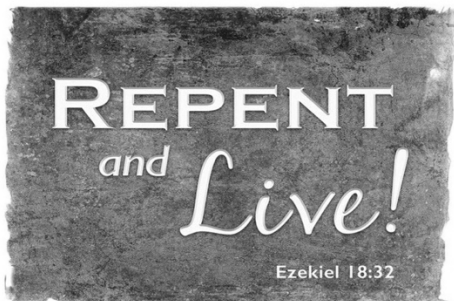
**Heavenly Father**  
**We ask your blessing upon us.**  
**Hold the Heartsease Community,**  
**and all the world,**  
**in your arms of love.**  
**Be with us.**  
**Give us your strength,**  
**peace, and healing grace.**  
**Watch over us,**  
**protect us from harm;**  
**and keep in safety**  
**all those who care for the sick**  
**and attend to our needs,**  
**in Jesus name we pray.**  
**Amen**

## PRAYERS FOR THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen  
Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and within us:  
open our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may serve you with reverence  
and know your peace at our lives' end,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God,  
you have taught us through your Son  
that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we  
may love you with our whole heart and our  
neighbours as ourselves;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen  
READINGS FOR THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

EZEKIEL 18:1 - 4, 25 - end



The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'?

As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.

Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

PSALM 25: 1 – 8



To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
O my God, in you I trust; •  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame, •  
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord, •  
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, •  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you have I hoped all the day long.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, •  
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, •  
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,  
according to your steadfast love.

Gracious and upright is the Lord; •  
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

He will guide the humble in doing right •  
and teach his way to the lowly.

## MATTHEW 21:23 - 32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?'



Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?'

And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.'

So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.'

'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'

## PHILIPPIANS 2:1 - 13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.



Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.



## REFLECTION FOR 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Ezekiel speaks the word of God to his people who are in exile.

The Temple and Jerusalem are lost – and so are they.

So lost that they even question the Word that the prophet gives them.

It should be good News, but they seem to want to cling to old ways – the self-same ways that have brought them far, far away from their homeland and their God.

But listen, say Ezekiel, God is promising you a better way!

You do not have to suffer for the sin of your fathers – God will judge each and every one of you by your own heart; by your own sins. Turn away from wrong ways, turn to the good and know God's blessing upon you.

Pah! says the people 'Just look where we are!' 'So much for not suffering because of what our fathers did before us. It is how it is, and we are stuck with it...'

A stubborn people indeed, and it would seem a people who are not any time soon going to be ready to embrace change.

Well, in time a remnant will be saved from Exile – the people will return to Jerusalem and the Temple will be rebuilt – but not without a lot of grumbling, moaning and questioning of God and God's purposes.

All this, no doubt, was very much in Jesus mind as he faces the Temple officials who are angrily resisting his teaching and his way.

'By whose authority are you saying and doing all these things' they ask him.

But Jesus will not be drawn into justifying himself, nor will he give them an easy answer

Instead he asks them about John the Baptist. John, who had called the people Israel to a baptism of repentance; repentance in readiness for the new way and the One who was about to come

The One who is right there in front of them that they will not see

All they see is their way, their beliefs, their hierarchies challenged and ultimately threatened. Challenged and threatened by an upstart Galilean.

Only a few days before, Jesus had caused a furore by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey – a clear gesture of provocation to the authorities; and then to add insult to injury a few days later he had stormed the Temple and literally thrown his weight about.

Now here he was again, teaching in the Temple as though he owned the place – Just who does he think he is?

So, they ask him.

And Jesus indulges in a bit more table turning – he challenges them; and they do not like it one little bit.

They are, very clearly, their father's sons – and they are blind to the Father's Son, even when he's standing in front of them

All they can see is what they have always seen - their authority, their tradition and their way of life. They want to be just like those who have gone before them.

No matter that they stand accused of error and obeying the wrong set of rules, no matter that their way is a pathway to death and destruction.

Change or die is the message - but they choose not to hear.

Nor will they listen to the other stories that Jesus will tell them as he teaches in the Temple – all they will hear is Jesus talking himself to death as he calls God's people to account.

'Who do you think you' they are they are thinking... Although I have to confess that I have never seen a single episode of the popular BBC series 'who do you think you are?' I have read enough to get the gist that it's all about celebrities and a search into their ancestry.

Thinly disguised as entertainment this is an exercise in mass nosiness as someone explores

their family history - delving into the past to maybe catch a glimpse into just how they came to be the people they have turned out to be.

Well of course - generally it tells them nothing; who our ancestors were does not make us the individuals we are today.

As we can see from Jesus teaching and from the prophet Ezekiel, it is a mistake to look to those who have gone before us as a means of learning who we are.

It is what is in our own hearts that matters – and it is by our own obedience to God’s Word and Jesus teaching that we will be judged; judged by God and by those around us.

Tell me says Jesus to those who are asking him who he thinks he is – who is it that does the Father’s will: The one who says yes, but fails to live by his word, or the one who says no, but does it anyway?

The nub of Jesus point was the rank hypocrisy of those who thought by hiding behind tradition they were being obedient to God.

But being obedient is so much more than paying lip service to what is being asked of us.

As we ponder on the story of the two sons; it is tempting to take it at face value. Of course the son who said yes but meant no is on the wrong pathway – it won’t be long before he is seen for who he is.

But is it any better to say no – and then go on to do what needs to be done without anyone knowing?

Is it not better to let yes be yes – and no be no; to stand by who we are and what we believe - no matter what the consequences?

When it comes down to it – if we are to be true to Jesus, who we think we are should always point to who it is we want others to know.

Paul’s letter to the church in Philippi sums it up beautifully – if you want others to know who you are: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus;

That’s the challenge – not so much who do we think we are, rather who do we want to be like?

As we approach St Francis Day and the culmination of the season of Creationtide this is a good time to ponder on our response to God’s call to be obedient to him in caring for creation and one another.

Will we say yes, but do as little as we can hiding behind those few in the wider church who are actively working for the good; will we do what we can but keep it quiet – not wanting to put our heads above the parapet – or will we stand up, speak out and actively work toward changing the destructive ways the world out there has fallen into?

Next week we will conclude Creationtide with an invitation to declare our commitment to work actively together for the care of God’s creation.

The words of the commitment are printed in this week’s newsletter – may I invite you to read them through in preparation for next week’s service; and to think very carefully whether you, as a part of God’s church, will take a stand, answer God’s call and let your yes be yes

Amen.





© Teal Notes



## Make my joy complete

### Notes on the Bible readings

- Philippi, originally a Greek city, was considered to be a miniature Rome. The Romans knew how to run the empire and keep people in order. Slavery was taken for granted and woven throughout Roman society. Jesus' death by crucifixion was the ultimate slave's death; by asking the people of Philippi to be like Christ, Paul is asking them to embrace this existence, the lowest in the Roman Empire.

- We can assume that people in Philippi would have heard of the crucifixion story, which must have been brought in via trade routes. Status was everything in their world, but this story and Paul's message about it shows that this kind of status doesn't mean anything to God.

- In a world obsessed with self-interest and self-image, putting aside your own interests for the interests of others is quite a challenge, and one that we, as followers of Jesus, need to wrestle with. What does this look like in practice? How can we balance this with the need for self-care?

### A random act of kindness

Search the internet for and watch '20 random acts of kindness'. Think of a random act of kindness that you could do. Evaluate its costs to you (financial, time, etc.) – and make the necessary plans to do it.

### Questions for reflection

- ▶ Where do you see yourself in this image?
- ▶ When do you find joy in helping others?
- ▶ If the keyhole represents 'key support', what does that look like in your community?



### A prayer for others

*O God, so often we want to pray for others but don't know how. We can't remember names or numbers, or other issues weigh heavily on our hearts. Thank goodness, God, that you know what we mean when we pray. So, we bring in this moment, those names and faces, images and desires for others that pop in and out of our minds throughout the day...*

*the old lady at the bus stop...*

*the young mum at the checkout...*

*the chap up the road who's calling for his dog...*

*the teachers struggling with their class...*

*a young family who can't make ends meet...*

*those without work, who can't find new jobs...*

*those with mental health issues and seeking help...*

*those who know they need help for whatever reason,*

*but are too ashamed to ask, or are ignored...*

*O God, for all these people and countless others, we offer our prayers. We know you do not need reminding, but you do need willing workers – even us – to help them know your love and have their needs met. Hear our ramblings, O God. Amen.*

### A personal prayer

*I simply pray that you, Lord God,  
will help me show your love  
to those around me.  
Amen.*

### Live your faith

Think of someone you don't normally engage with – or someone who represents a group or ideology that that you dislike – and do something specific and positive for that person.

Name .....



### Philippians 2.1-13

Paul encourages the Philippians to do things not for their own good but for the good of others.



### Family time

**Talk** Why do we sometimes find it hard to be generous to others or to put other people first?

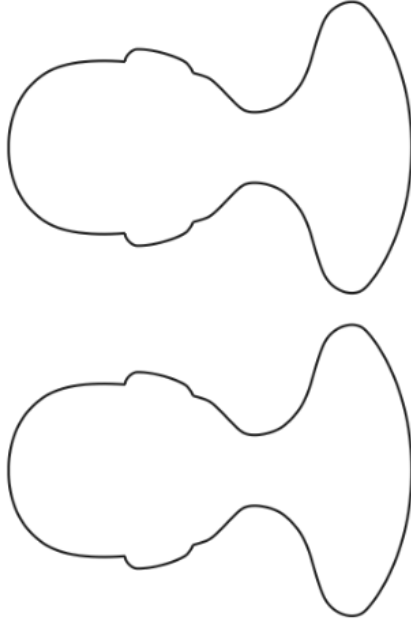
**Do** Think of four things you could do this week to put the interests of others first. Make a list together and check that you do all four during the week.

**Pray** Look at the list you have made of ways to put others first. Pray: Lord, may we be joyful as we (read the list here). **Amen.**

## Activity time



Make these figures look like those you should be thinking of first, e.g. a family member or a friend.



How many words can you make using the word interests? E.g. tent.

# interests

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# ROOTS children's Sheet

27 September – 3 October 2020



Carry out a survey to find out what other people think when they hear the word humility. Write down what you discover here.

Name	What do you think when you hear the word 'humility'?



### Matthew 21.23-32

Jesus is challenged about his authority and tells a story about two sons, to show that actions speak louder than words.

What makes you who you are?



Jesus tells a story about two sons. Their actions do not match their replies.

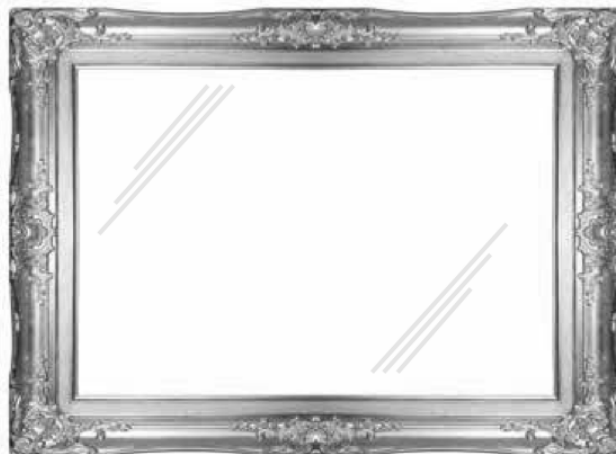
### Activity 1

Write in the names on the invitation. Draw a line to the reply that represents how you would respond.



### Activity 2

Look in the mirror and draw a picture of yourself. God loves you just the way you are.



## PRAYER

Dear God, we are sorry for the times we have said we will do something, but then haven't done it. Help us to be people who say, 'Yes!' and mean it. Amen.

### Live in faith

Notice when you are afraid to say what you really think, and talk to God about it.

### Check it out

*Hermie, A Common Caterpillar*, Max Lucado, Thomas Nelson.



# **The Parable of the Two Sons**

## **Matthew 21: 28 - 32**

