

Thought for the Week

No one these days would censure anyone who spends a pleasant autumn afternoon picking blackberries, and very few people if anyone would say that nurses should not care for their patients on a Sunday. But the religious authorities had worked hard on defining exactly what the rule meant and their rigid interpretation had become an important element of Jewish life. By going against it Jesus was challenging authority, and the basic tenets of the Jewish faith. It was as if, like *Just a Minute*, if there weren't rules, then there wasn't a game.

Rules can take on a life of their own until we are completely unable to remember their original purpose. Where countries and institutions have recognised this, there are ways of reviewing laws and rules to ensure that they are still appropriate and being used in the best way. As an institution, the Church too has its rules but, important as they are, they are no substitute for developing a relationship with God through our own prayer and meditation, and we risk using them badly if we fail to do so.

Jesus recognised that people are more important than the sabbath; rules were made for them and not the other way round. In the same way, the modern Church exists to point us towards God. Compared to first-century Judaism its rules are few, and with good reason. By challenging interpretations of the rules, Jesus made himself so unpopular that the Jewish authorities sought to kill him, and it ended in his crucifixion. But that terrible death, the inevitable result of God's perfection coming up against frail, imperfect humanity, allows us to rethink. It gives us the freedom and responsibility to walk closely with God and to hear the divine voice. We are not called to throw out rules, but we *are* called to listen carefully to God, to understand what they might mean for us and for our communities as we seek to work together to share the love of Christ with those we meet on life's journey.

The rules are not the game – God's infinite love for us and all creation is.

Intercessions

In the name of Jesus we pray for healing for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and for those who care for them

We remember those who have died recently, and pray for their families and friends

Praying as a Benefice

Please use the following text and prayer in quiet time; the text is from this Sunday's readings and the prayer is from Bishop Jonathan. Please pray either at noon or 5.55 pm (or both) every day.

This week's Bible Text

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. (*Romans 8: 14*)

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.' (*John 3: 17*)

The Prayer

Glorious God,
You have taken hold of us and made us Your own. In the power of Your Spirit give us grace to press on in Your purposes, loving one another, learning together and living the mission of Him who calls us onwards, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Week Ahead

Tues 5	7.15 pm	Homegroup David and Peggy 8028 3154
	7.30 pm	Rock Choir St M
Weds 6	10.30 am	Holy Communion and coffee in Nondescripts
	11.00 am	Bellringing AS
	2.00 pm	Funeral of Ivy Webb St M
Thurs 7	1.30 pm	Oxford Medieval Art Group visiting St M
	7.30 pm	Homegroup AS
	7.30 pm	Bellringing St M and AS
Fri 8	12.30 Pm	Funeral of Myrna Compton St M
	3.00 pm	Kneeler Group AS

Next Sunday 10th June 2018

Trinity 2

10.30 am	Holy Communion CC
10.30 am	Coffee then Morning Worship St M
6.00 pm	Evensong AS

1 Samuel 8. 4-11

2 Corinthians 4, 13 – 5.1

Mark 3. 20-end

GNB OT 264

GNB NT 216

GNB NT 47

Benefice Office Hours

Monday 10am-2pm Wednesday 10am-3.30pm
Thursday 1.30-3.30pm and Friday 10am-2pm
And if we are not in please leave a message and we will get back to you. 8028 3175

June/July

17th June

9.30 am Holy Communion AS
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee St M
6 pm Sunday at Six – Animal Blessing with the Reverend Peter Murphy CC

24th June

10.30 am Holy Communion CC
10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship St M
10.30 am Service of the Word AS

1st July

9.30 am Holy Communion AS
10.30 am YouChurch CC
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee St M

8th July

10.30 am Holy Communion CC
10.30 am Coffee then Morning Worship St M
4.15 pm Discussion Group and tea AS
6.00 pm Evensong AS

15th July

9.30 am Holy Communion AS
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee St M
6 pm Sunday at Six CC

22nd July

10.30 am Holy Communion CC
10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship St M
10.30 am Service of the Word AS

29th July

10.30 am Morning Worship CC
10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship St M
10.30 am Service of worship and Music AS

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND in
LYNDHURST & EMERY DOWN & MINSTEAD

Trusting Christ Transforming Church
Transforming Community

3rd June 2018

Trinity 1

Welcome to our gathering today!
If you wish to know more about the activities of our churches, please talk to one of the welcomers, call the Benefice Office (8028 3175) email us benefice@newforestparishes.com or look us up on Facebook, or the website (www.newforestparishes.com).

Today's Services

9.30 am Holy Communion AS
10.30 am Holy Communion for Dedication Festival CC
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee St M

Collect

**O God,
the strength of all those
who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers and,
because through the weakness
of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
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**

Today's Readings

1 Samuel 3. 1-10 **GNB OT 254**
Samuel mistakes God's call as he lies asleep in the temple for Eli's voice, but Eli realises that it is the Lord. God tells Samuel that Eli's house will be punished because his sons blasphemed God. Samuel is afraid to tell Eli, but Eli accepts the news.

2 Corinthians 6 -10 **GNB NT 213**
Paul explains that he and Timothy do not proclaim themselves but Jesus Christ. Although afflicted they are not crushed, carrying the death of Jesus, whose life is made visible in them.

Mark 2. 23-3. 6 **GNB NT 46**
The Pharisees complain that Jesus' disciples have been plucking grain on the sabbath. Jesus explains that there is nothing wrong with someone hungry gathering food because the sabbath was made for people. The Pharisees are even more displeased when Jesus heals a man and plot to destroy him.