



**Church at Home 17  
for Abridge  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
Proper 9  
(Love your Neighbour)**



*O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbour: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection. **Amen.***

**NEXT WEEK. Picnic in the grounds of St. Mary's 12<sup>th</sup> July at 4 pm;** to include, picnic (bring your own), worship time and a farewell to Nick, Crystal and the boys. As this week's church-at-home sheet is being written, the plan for our open-air get-together for our local church congregations is progressing. Representatives from both churches have met and agreed an outline for the get together.

**PRAYER.**

Let us pray: We thank you God for being with us each and every day – and especially being present with us in a special way when we gather to worship you and hear your word. We ask your blessing upon our assembly. Be swift to answer the prayers of our hearts and receive from our hands all that is due to you. Be present with us and help us to honour you and learn from you and to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love one another in the way that Jesus loves us. We ask it in his name. Amen.

**HYMN [What a friend we have in Jesus. \(Alan Jackson\)](#) [What a friend we have in Jesus \(Traditional\)](#)**

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear ..... Take it to the Lord in prayer: do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer; In his arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find solace there.

There is a lot in the press about "... lives matter", as Christians how do we react to this? We are ALL born in the image of God; we are ALL told in the Bible "Love Your Neighbour". Every single life matters and as Christians we should be treating 'everybody' as our neighbour.

**READINGS.** Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67, Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Zechariah 9:9-12  
Psalm 145:8-14

The Epistle -- Romans 7:15-25a The Gospel -- Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**HYMN [I'll Praise My Maker while I have Breath](#)**

**SCRIPTURE:** "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11: 28 [NIV]

How strong are you? Do you think that you are strong? Do you think you could pick up this brick? How about a pair of dumbbells like these?



How many of you think you could pick up a car? Oh, you don't think you could pick up a car? Well, I think you could if you had some help. A jack could assist. If you put this jack underneath the car and pump the handle, you can easily lift a car that weighs over 1,000 kilograms! Yes, with the help of a jack, you can lift a car, but you couldn't do it alone, could you?



A number of you have pretty heavy burdens. Some of these existed prior to the lock-down; the lock-down has made it more complicated, though some of you wouldn't call them burdens you would call it Love. Perhaps you have a physical handicap that makes your life difficult or perhaps your family is having financial difficulties. Maybe someone in your family has cancer or some other serious illness. I don't know what the burdens are that you have in your life, but I do know that there are some that you just can't carry by yourself. What has been seen during the past months is the kindness and caring attitude of people who have offered help to those people not so fortunate as themselves.

Well, guess what? You don't have to carry on by yourself! Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." There is no reason for you to struggle with burdens that are too heavy for you. If you will turn to Jesus, he will help you carry your burdens. And there is no burden too heavy for Jesus.

#### **HYMN [I heard the voice of Jesus say](#)**

#### **PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray.....Dear Lord Jesus, - we are thankful that when we stumble - under the load of life's burdens, you are there to pick us up - and help us on the way. Amen.

And in the word's Jesus taught us, let us pray:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

You can find these resources on the websites of the two churches and here are the links:

[www.lambournechurch.com](http://www.lambournechurch.com)   [www.abridgeevangelicalchurch.org](http://www.abridgeevangelicalchurch.org)

**For our prayers,** let us remember:

- The government and its advisors as they plan how the lockdown should be eased
- People whose mental health has been badly affected by the lockdown and those who care for them
- Key workers who continue to put themselves at risk to save lives. You may know of some by name for whom you can pray.
- Those we know who are in hospital or waiting for treatment
- Say thank you for good neighbours and people who offer assistance

End your time of church-at-home by saying out loud the words of **The Grace**, reaching out your hands to include in your imagination all those you know and love, who live here in the village and beyond

**Final hymn suggestions:** Just close your eyes and savour the words [Go Now in Peace](#)



**Please pray for:**

Wise decisions about reopening churches.

People in need of help/assistance.

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