



26 September – 2 October 2021 • Faith 24/7

Living your best life?

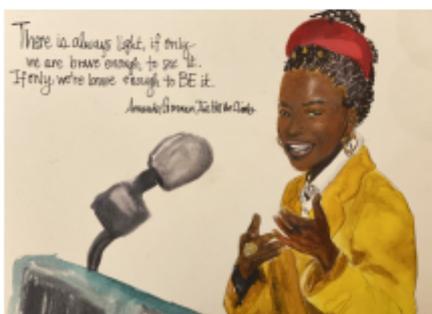
Mark 9.38-50

In which the disciples notice that other people, from outside of their group, are casting out demons in Jesus' name – and they tell Jesus about it, expecting him to stop them. But Jesus explains that these people are just as much a part of his kingdom as the disciples are

Now read **Mark 9.38-50** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

In this passage, Jesus is saying that while people might belong to one group or another, or perhaps no group at all, everyone who acts in his name is united under him. The way some people live out their faith may be a little different to ours, other Christians may have slightly different views to us, or belong to a different church denomination. The challenge can be to see God at work in others and/or to see God at work in ourselves. Sometimes we just need to look beyond what we think we know.



Ask yourself: How do you feel about the call to be brave enough to BE the light?



Read the story of a man who helps refugees because of his own experience.
<https://www.humansofnewyork.com/tagged/refugee-stories#4>
How do you see God in this man? How does he see God in others?

REFLECT

Play some quiet music while you reflect on these words from Mother Teresa, 'To be able to love one another, we must pray much, for prayer gives a clean heart and a clean heart can see God in our neighbour. If now we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten how to see God in one another...' Consider somebody and think about how you can see God in them.

LOOK

Visit www.illusions.org/ or just type 'optical illusions' into a search engine. It can sometimes be hard to look beyond how things appear to see what lies beneath. Look out this week for glimpses of God in the people around you. Each evening, identify how you saw God at work in one person or action.



Write

Sometimes the hardest thing can be to see God in ourselves. We often find it much easier to focus on what we think is wrong with us, than what is good. Write your name on the top of a piece of paper. If you can do this with others, pass each piece of paper around everyone in turn. Everyone should write a quality of God that they see in the person named, at the top of the piece of paper, until the paper returns to its owner. If you are on your own, ask God to reveal to you, how he is at work in your life and write those things down.



BAKE

Make a cake using a simple recipe. For each ingredient (eggs, flour, sugar, butter) think of two other items that can be made with that ingredient (omelette, bread, etc.). Just like the same eggs or flour can look and taste very different from one creation to another – depending on what else has been added and how ingredients have been treated, God can look very different in one person to another. Our cultures, backgrounds, experiences and personalities mean we all show God in different ways – but it's the same God in us all.



This week is a double issue as there will be no newsletter next week.

As we celebrate Harvest today and thank God for the plenty we enjoy, let's remember those who struggle to find food both at home and abroad. What can we do to help? Locally we can support the Food Bank – the pressures on it are likely to increase substantially with the changes to Universal Credit. Please see the shopping list below and see if you can help and pass it on to others.



Helping People in Crisis

Latest Shopping List 2021

Our top priority is: Supermarket gift cards	For our cooking packs we need: Mixed Herbs Salt Pepper Gravy Granules Instant Coffee Sugar Oil Tomato Sauce Packet Seasoning	For our comfort packs we need: Disposable Razors Nappies Size 5, 6 & 7 Small Washing Up Liquid Family Size Shower Gel Men's and Women's Deodorant Large & Small Washing Powder Anti Bac Spray Anti Bac Wipes Kitchen Roll Single Adult Toothbrushes Family Pack of Toothbrushes Shaving Foam Family Size Shampoo Hair Conditioner
Our Storehouse needs: Peanut Butter Sponge Puddings Hot Chocolate Tinned Potatoes Tinned Fruit Tinned Rice pudding Tinned custard Noodle Pots/Mugshots Crackers Treats Apple Juice Orange Juice Squash	For our pet packs we need: Wet & Dry Dog Food Wet & Dry Cat Food	

We also accept **money and gift cards** to enable us to buy what we need when we need it. Or **donate online** at www.worcester.foodbank.org.uk

Thank you for your support. *Please note: We are very grateful for your donations. However, we can only accept donations of unopened and undamaged goods which are still within their "use by" date.*

Donate to: Worcester Foodbank, Unit 7, Lowesmoor Wharf, WR1 2RS, OR your local participating food store / organisation.

Foodbank Opening Times: 11-2pm each Monday Wednesday and Friday (Not Bank Holidays)



Winners for September:
1st Prize No. 6 Julie Farmer
2nd Prize No. 71 Chris Parsons-Southall
Congratulations!

'Newtown Green Walkers' (organised by WCT and Platform Housing) are out on Monday mornings for a local walk of about an hour. If you would like to join them for a walk (and a chat), the group leaves Ronkswood Community Centre at 10.00 a.m.

'Marathon Kids – Worcester' meet every Saturday at 10.00 on Newtown Green behind the Community Centre. Part of Marathon Kids UK – for more information visit their Facebook page. Children of all ages welcome!



Match point helps make another point...

Along with half of the country, I was glued to the US Open Tennis, earlier this month. Emma Raducanu's meteoric rise to super-stardom was thrilling to watch, and I'm not all that keen on sport!

In the aftermath, it was striking that Britain – a nation which has recently imposed tighter restrictions on immigration – opened its arms and hearts to a young woman born in Canada, to a Romanian father and a Chinese mother.

This is not intended as any kind of comment on our government's policies, but it seems to me that life becomes fuller, richer and more exciting when we welcome people from outside our own little group. On the other hand, shutting out everyone from outside makes life smaller, darker and meaner. We're seeing that in Afghanistan.

In Mark 9.38-41, Jesus' disciples notice that someone from outside their group is casting out demons in the name of Jesus. They're shocked and they try to stop him, because he's not one of them. But Jesus points out that even though this man is not one of their 'crowd', what he's doing is great. In fact, God is at work through him.

In a world where opinions seem to be becoming more and more polarised, people are often suspicious or hostile towards those who look, think or behave differently from them. We might fall into that trap ourselves. But perhaps we would actually benefit from being more welcoming towards people we don't normally associate with – at school, at college or at work, for example. It's just possible that God might be doing something in them, too.

Questions to think about:

- ❖ Who outside our own little groups might God want us to welcome?
- ❖ What might he be doing already in and through those people?



Daily Readings for week commencing 27 th September 2021		
Monday	2 Chronicles 9: 1-12	Mark 14: 1-11
Tuesday	2 Chronicles 10: 1-11:4	Mark 14: 12-25
Wednesday	Daniel 12: 1-4	Acts 12: 1-11 <i>Michael and all angels</i>
Thursday	2 Chronicles 13: 1-14:1	Mark 14: 53-52
Friday	2 Chronicles 14: 2-end	Mark 14: 53-65
Saturday	2 Chronicles 15: 1-15	Mark 14: 66-end

Daily Readings for week commencing 4 th October 2021		
Monday	2 Chronicles 17: 1-12	Mark 15: 1-15
Tuesday	2 Chronicles 18: 1-27	Mark 15: 16-32
Wednesday	2 Chronicles 18: 28-end of 19	Mark 15: 33-41
Thursday	2 Chronicles 20: 1-23	Mark 15: 42-end
Friday	2 Chronicles 22: 10-end of 23	Mark 16: 1-8
Saturday	2 Chronicles 24: 1-22	Mark 16: 9-end

*Pray for those in need...*Sally, Tristan, Mark, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy, Mandy, Joyce, Pete, Ian, Juliette and Nicki. ***Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...Lynda***

Dates for the diary

As the autumn begins there are lots of dates to put in the diary for future months. Please make a note of them now so you don't miss them. Some of the venues are still to be confirmed and we will let you know about this as soon as we can confirm it.

Sunday 17th October Our focus on this Sunday is the climate and environment. This will be a theme running through this service and we will have resources available to enable you to play your part in caring for our world.

Sunday 30th October At our ATIC service we will be celebrating All Saints Day. Our annual All Souls service will take place either late afternoon or early evening. Time and venue will be confirmed over the next two weeks.

Sunday 7th November We all appreciate how important Safeguarding is in our church and this will be the theme running through the service on this day. Revd Stephanie Moyes will be our preacher.

Sunday 14th November Remembrance Sunday. Please join us for this service as the nation remembers the great sacrifices made for us in wars past and present. Our service will begin in church and finish with our Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on the old church site.

Sunday 28th November Advent Sunday. The beginning of the new Church year when our thoughts turn to Christmas and the coming incarnation.

Sunday 19th December Nine Lessons and Carols. Venue and times to be confirmed.
