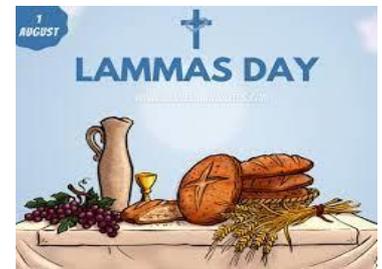




31st July 2022



**For meditation:** *Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy thought can drag downwards, an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon me also, O Lord my God, understanding to see thee, wisdom to find thee, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*  
*St Thomas Aquinas*

### NEWS AND VIEWS

Lammas Day, 1<sup>st</sup> August is an old church festival, with ancient origins, though it is generally forgotten nowadays. It was once an important quarter day in the Celtic year, and was called Lughnasad Day after their god Lugh. The name Lammas probably comes from a corruption of 'loaf-mass', due to the breads made at this time made with the first cut corn of the harvest and blessed by the priest. Some also think the name could be derived from 'lamb-mass', as lambs were once dedicated at church on this day. Large sheep fairs were traditionally held in many parts of the country and these were occasions for general festivity and games. Semi-common grazing lands were also opened for public use, lasting until Candlemas.

### POINTS FOR PRAYER

The holiday season is in full swing – pray for all those taking some time out from the usual round. Remember those though who struggle with debt and who find it a challenge to make ends meet. In the world we pray for areas of conflict and strife – including the now long-suffering people of Ukraine. We pray, too for areas where there are wild fires, leading to losses of homes, livelihoods and habitats. In the circuit we are praying for the congregation at Paulton, and today we remember our BMA friends as they meet to worship, talk, eat and plan for a new future together in Bath.

### LECTIONARY READINGS – 7 August

Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20  
Psalm 50: 1-8, 23-24  
Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16  
Luke 12: 32-40

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. It was by their faith that people in ancient times won God's approval. It is by faith that we understand that the universe was created by God's word, so that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen.  
Hebrews 11: 1-3

### DIARY

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July

BMA Joint service Horizon Southdown  
Morning worship 10.30am  
led by Rev Simon and Deacon Annie  
We are welcome to join the discussions about the formation of the Bath Methodist Church council but these do not directly impact us or the folk at Bathampton.

#### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August

Café 9.30 – 12 noon

Brother,  
you want to seek God with all your life,  
And love him with all your heart.  
But you would be wrong  
if you thought you could reach him.  
Your arms are too short, your eyes too dim,  
your heart and understanding too small.

To seek God means first of all  
to let yourself be found by him.  
He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.  
He is the God of Jesus Christ. He is your God,  
not because he is yours but because you are his.

To choose God is to realise that you are known and loved in a way surpassing anything men can imagine, loved before anyone had thought of you or spoken your name.

To choose God means giving yourself up to him in faith. Let your life be built on this faith as on an invisible foundation.  
Let yourself be carried by this faith like a child in its mother's womb.

And so, don't talk too much about God but live in the certainty that he has written your name on the palm of his hand.  
Live your human task in the liberating certainty that nothing in the world can separate you from God's love for you.

From Rule for a New Brother