

# The Smestow Vale Team Ministry



## St Benedict's and the Venerable Bede Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 7th June

Trinity

Trinity Sunday

Holy God, faithful and unchanging  
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth  
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love  
at we may truly worship you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever. Amen.

### The Prophet Isaiah reflects of the majesty of God

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the spirit of the LORD, or as his counsellor has instructed him? Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice? Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he takes up the isles like fine dust. Lebanon would not provide fuel enough, nor are its animals enough for a burnt-offering. All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

*Isaiah 40.12–17, 27–31*

### Paul writes to the church in Corinth

Brothers and sisters, put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

2 Corinthians 13.11–13

### Jesus promise to the Disciples.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

*Matthew 28:16-20*

### A Reflection for Trinity from Laurie Gainer

The readings this morning are quite painful. Both the Epistle and the Gospel remind us of things we cannot do under lockdown conditions. "Greet one another with a holy kiss." (or even shake hands) 2Cor.13:12. or "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..." Matt.28:19 (when we cannot even cross the Welsh border, and baptisms are on hold.) But when we come to the Old Testament lesson from Isaiah40, the view changes. Our human perceptions are no longer important. We see the

situation through the eyes of our all-powerful God. He is the one who heals the sick and strengthens the weary. He is the God of creation, who has never stopped working.

Almost every day since the lockdown started, I have taken my sixty minutes of exercise each morning walking along some part of the canal bank between Bratch Locks and Botterham Locks. I have watched the Creator God at work as little ducklings in March grow to "Teenagers" by the end of May, still bunched together, but no longer with their mother. I have observed the flowers along the towpath change in their season from celandines to poppies. Walkers, runners and cyclists still greet each other: not with a kiss or a handshake, but with a smile, a happy "Good Morning," and a cheerful stepping aside to maintain social distancing.

The passage from Isaiah reminds us we have a God for whom nothing is impossible. God is never laid low in illness. Rather, he is the unseen presence enabling doctors and nurses to bring back people from near death to full vigour. He is the One in the midst of us, encouraging us as we work to come through these times of distress.

### **Prayer During the Week**

#### **Sunday**

Pray for the Church as she continues to fulfil her purpose in novel ways. (Matthew 28: 19, 20)

#### **Monday**

Pray for those in countries where war, persecution or hunger have been made worse by the virus.

#### **Tuesday**

Pray for sports people worried about resuming their activities too soon.

#### **Wednesday**

Pray for all working in non-essential shops, re-opening next week.

#### **Thursday (Corpus Christi)**

Pray for the time to come soon when Holy Communion can be resumed. (John 6: 54)

#### **Friday (Barnabas)**

Pray for those who have a special gift to encourage others. (Acts: 11: 23-26)

#### **Saturday**

Pray that we may have thought for the environment as normal life starts to resume.

**Please remember those who have asked for our prayers** Sarah Stephenson, David Kingston, Lisa, Julia McCormick, Morgan, Michael Concannon, Heather Gent, Jean, and Margaret Hatton

### **Those who have died**

Janet Watkiss, Jacqueline Hinton, Beryl Simcox, Albert Harris, Emily Preece, Dorothy Godwin, Donald Wadeley and Thelma Cooper.

### **Sunday Worship**

Thank you to Preb Ben from Penn for all the help with last Sunday's service Don't forget you can both like and share.

There will be a service led by Paul on Facebook this Sunday from 10.30am.

### **Share the Good News**

You are very welcome to share Keeping in Touch with others. If you know of anyone who would like it emailing to them direct please let Maxine know.

### **Sunday Worship for Trinity**

**10.45am BBC 1**

Please join in prayer and worship on Sunday Morning The Reverend Canon Leigh Richardson, sub-dean and precentor, leads a service for Trinity Sunday from St David's Cathedral in Pembrokeshire. With hymns sung by the Songs of Praise congregation in July 2019

### **Stewardship Envelopes**

Thank you to everyone who is saving up their Weekly Stewardship Envelopes. They are important to us as despite very careful management we still have bills to pay.

### **Grapevine magazine June / July.**

The June / July issue of the magazine is going to be a digital only version again this month as we have been unable to print or deliver it again. We hope that we will be back to normal service for the next issue.

If anyone would like to receive a digital copy, or knows any friends who would like one, then please send your email address to:

[office@stbenedictbiscop.org.uk](mailto:office@stbenedictbiscop.org.uk)

or [womwelch@hotmail.com](mailto:womwelch@hotmail.com)

Requesting a copy of Grapevine.

Alternatively phone 01902324111 and speak to Nigel.

