

# The Smestow Vale Team Ministry



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

Sunday 28th June

### Trinity 3

God our Saviour  
look on this wounded world  
in pity and un power  
hold fast to your promise of peace  
won for us by your Son  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; and the prophet Jeremiah said, 'Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfil the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.'

*Jeremiah 28.5–9*

#### After Jesus warns his disciples that their discipleship would bring hardship he talks of the reward for those who welcome them.

Jesus said to the twelve: 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

*Matthew 10.40–42*

#### A Reflection for Trinity 3 from Sarah Malpass

After weeks on end keeping our distance from others, with the doors of churches locked and our day to day existence being altered. After being confined so dramatically, we are slowly returning to a way of life that is looking more recognisable. Certainly this time has been challenging for many, devastating for some and barely bearable for others, but now are we emerging, entering the new normal. The doors are unlocked and the welcome mat is out again.

In our gospel today, one of the shortest in the lectionary, we hear of how we are to offer welcome to all and how it is imperative to do so. In the ancient world this idea of welcome stretched beyond the person physically present, to all those that person represented, perhaps the rest of the family or their community.

And so, we who might offer a tentative welcome post lockdown, to others are offering a welcome to all our sisters and brothers. In doing so welcome Christ in each we encounter.

During lockdown there were many examples of People working together to help others, the housebound, the lonely, the unwell and a gratitude shown for those who care for others with compassion, serving others selflessly. These examples show humanity at its best, modelling the love so often found within the gospel.

At the end of the reading, Jesus refers to little ones,

who in our understanding might come to represent all those who are overlooked, ignored, ill treated. We may understand it today as those who are marginalised or lonely. The final verse of the chapter gives an indication of how even the smallest act of kindness matters enormously in God's economy- something that so many were able to do when we paused, and noticed what mattered. Treating people with kindness, care and compassion.

Small acts of kindness displaying the kind of hospitality Jesus was talking about. And so, as we roll out the welcome again, as we begin to gather in larger numbers once more, in time, let us remember the quiet hospitality we gave each other when we as a church and as a community had to reimagine what welcome looks like.

*Sarah*

### **Prayer During the Week**

#### **Sunday** (Matthew 10: 40)

Pray that, when we greet one another online, we may remember that we welcome Jesus Christ.

#### **Monday** (*Peter and Paul - Matthew 16: 16*)

Pray that we may always remember to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah - the Son of the living God.

#### **Tuesday**

Pray for wisdom for those in authority who have to make complex and far-reaching decisions.

#### **Wednesday**

Pray for those working in non-essential shops, that they may keep safe.

#### **Thursday**

Pray for those who have lost jobs in the poorest countries, and have no source of income.

#### **Friday**

(Thomas - John 20: 29) Pray that, though we have not seen, we may come to believe,

#### **Saturday**

Pray for the U.S.A. as they approach a Presidential election later this year.

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

#### **Those who have died**

Dorothy Godwin, George Penk and Thelma Cooper.

### **Sunday Worship**

There will be a service led by Paul on Facebook and on You Tube this Sunday. Sorry last week's You tube was late !

### **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.

### **Daily Hope**

Offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

A Church of England initiative in partnership with CONNECTIONS at Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life, the line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

### **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.

### **St Benedict's Open for Private Prayer**

St Benedict's is open for private prayer . Special arrangements have been put in place and it is important that we maintain 2m social distancing.

### **St Benedict's Open for Services**

I am sure that we were all delighted to hear the Prime Minister announce that we may be able to hold public services from the 4th of July. The safety of our congregations is paramount. Later this week, after our Keeping in touch has been published, we hope to receive some guidelines that will enable us to feel both safe and welcome in church. The Guideline will be published on our web page and will be available from the Parish Office.

### **Compline**

Sarah Malpass is inviting you to a Zoom meeting for

Compline : Sunday 28th June at 9.00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78825406928?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78825406928?pwd=RUDqR0c2UHNfQjdnK3VqNHp0VjFEQT09)

pwd=RUDqR0c2UHNfQjdnK3VqNHp0VjFEQT09

Meeting ID: 788 2540 6928

Password: 1wPYT1

Please let Sarah know if you would like to join

