

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry

St Benedict's and the Venerable Bede

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 12th July 2020

Trinity 5

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Paul write of the freedom in Christ.

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Romans 8:1-11

Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower.

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd

stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty

Matthew 13:1-9 &18-23

A Reflection for Trinity 5 from Revd Richard Fisher

Martin was born into a working-class family. As a

Christian, Martin struggled to believe that God accepted him, even when he became a monk, attended chapel several times a day, fasted regularly and confessed his sins to God continually. His spiritual director, John, encouraged him to think about the cross. He did, but Martin had it drummed into him that God only poured grace into people's hearts when they did all in their power to please God...and Martin was anxious that he wasn't doing enough.

Martin was a very bright young man, becoming a lecturer in theology at a major University. Still he had no peace, though, until gradually it dawned on him that it is "not the person who does much that is put in a right with God, but the person who trusts much in Christ, without their own efforts." Martin spoke out about his life-changing discovery and turned the Church not only upside down but the right way up! 500 years later the same Church that excommunicated him for heresy now celebrates Martin Luther for preaching the truth of the Gospel. Luther loved the letter to the Romans. In his commentary on it he writes: "Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favour that it would risk death a thousand times over trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes us happy, joyful and bold in our relationship to God and all creatures".

It is through what God has done for us through his Son dying and rising for us that we are accepted by God. "There is therefore now, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" we hear in chapter 8 verse 1. The rest of the chapter reveals how important is God's Giving Gift, mentioned six times in the eleven verses we have today. This is the Holy Spirit, whose love, power, and self-discipline we need as we restart worship in our churches. Let us pray for the Spirit of God to fill us and help us glorify Christ this week.

Prayer During the Week.

Sunday

Pray that we may be receptive and understanding of the words of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 13: 23)

Monday

Pray for all who are working for equality of treatment for all.

Tuesday

Pray for an awareness that ALL lives matter and are equally precious in God's sight.

Wednesday

Pray for safety on the roads as traffic starts to build again.

Thursday

Thank God for all who have worked hard and selflessly throughout the lockdown.

Friday

Pray for those parents who go with little food so that their children may eat.

Saturday

Pray for those intending to attend Church tomorrow, may they trust the God who protects

Please remember those who have asked for our prayer

Sarah Stephenson, David Kingston, Lisa, Julia McCormick, Morgan, Michael Concannon, Heather Gent, Jean, Margaret Hatton, Margaret Ward, Joy Waistell

Those who have died

Thelma Cooper, Barbara Longfellow, Eric Mitchell, Angela Hickman, Brenda Ann Mason, Sheila Bates.

Sunday Worship

St Benedict's reopens for its first service this week. It is essential that you book in as seating is very limited. There will be a service led by Paul on Facebook and on YouTube this Sunday.

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.

Standing Orders

Thank you to all those who are continuing to contribute to our Churches through Standing Orders. It is very much appreciated during this difficult time.

