

# The Smestow Vale Team Ministry

St Benedict's and the Venerable Bede

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 2nd August 2020

Trinity 8

Lord God,

Your Son left the riches of heaven  
and became poor for our sake,  
when we prosper save us from pride  
when we are needy save us from despair  
that we may trust in you alone:  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

*Isaiah 55:1-5*

## A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

*Romans 9.1-5*

## Jesus and the miracle of the loaves and fish.

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

*Matthew 14.13-21*

## A Reflection on the Feeding of the 5,000 from the Revd Preb Paul Brown

When my children were still at the sandcastle stage, we went on holiday to Norfolk with another family. All went surprisingly well, trips to the sea, walks through the sand dunes and shopping trips to the local market town. A particular plastic toy was all the rage at the time – a must have for little boys. Chad had one and so did his friend, and I well remember how excitement got the better of the

friend, plastic toy and little boy disappeared so that no one else could play with it.

Learning to share is one of our first, most important and most difficult lessons. It is something that is at the heart of our Christian faith. This morning we heard Matthew's story of the feeding of the 5,000. Meal time was approaching and the crowd were hungry. All they seem to have had was five barley loaves and two fish. Andrew, always a realist, says what is that among so many. The bread is taken, thanks are made, it's broken and it's shared, neighbour by neighbour, and there is not just enough, but more than enough. An example that is so important that it is there in all four of the Gospels.

Sharing, something that it is at the heart of our faith. Something that starts with sharing our toys and which develops as we grow older. Sharing that is about our time, the way we use our possessions, our talents. Sharing that is about who we share with just as much as it is about what we share. We live in a world where the questions what to share and who to share it with are just as current as there were 2,000 years ago. Think for a moment about international trade, banking, benefits, and immigration. ... they all ask what should we share and with whom. There are no easy answers. The Covid 19 crisis has brought the sharing of medical research to the fore, our prayer is that it will succeed and that the sharing will be a constant reminder of what can be achieved when people share.

*Paul Brown*

### **Prayer During the Week.**

#### **Sunday**

Pray that our loving actions may multiply as we share with other people. (Matthew 14: 20)

#### **Monday**

Pray for countries enduring a second wave of Covid-19 infections.

#### **Tuesday**

Pray for those in many countries who have no income because of the lockdown.

#### **Wednesday**

Pray for those facing isolation on their return from Spain.

#### **Thursday**— Transfiguration

Pray that we may be ready to listen to the voice of Jesus speaking in our hearts. (Luke 9: 35)

#### **Friday**

Pray for our national leaders and their advisers as they plan each step of re-emergence.

### **Saturday**

Pray for members of church communities as they consider whether to attend worship tomorrow.

### **Please remember those who have asked for our prayers**

Sarah Stephenson, Margaret Ward, Joy Waistell, Sarah Aldridge, Ann and Barrie Taylor

Please send requests for prayers to the Parish Office.

### **Those who have died**

Julia McCormack, Edna Bucknall, Margaret Hatton, David Kingston, Berenice Pickering, Mitchell Brooks and Brian Jones

### **Sunday Worship at St Benedict's**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Communion

Please remember to book **each** week by contacting Hilary on 01902 892856 or by email [hilmoore@gmail.com](mailto:hilmoore@gmail.com)  
There will be a service led by Paul on Facebook and on YouTube this Sunday.

### **Good News**

The Bishop has agreed to extend the Revd. Sue Watson's Licence for another year. We are all delighted.

### **Facemasks**

Don't forget that there is strong advice that Facemasks should be worn at all services in church.

### **Grapevine Magazine August / September**

Unfortunately for logistical reasons we are unable to produce a printed copy of the next edition of The Grapevine Magazine. We will be producing a digital copy for distribution to everyone that we have an email address for. If you, or anyone you know, would like a copy please send your email address to Maxine at the Parish Office ([office@stbenedictbiscop.org.uk](mailto:office@stbenedictbiscop.org.uk)) requesting a copy.

If you received a copy last time then you do not need to request it again.

