

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry

St Benedict's and the Venerable Bede

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 23rd August 2020

Trinity 11

God of Glory

the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside

All that prevents us from seeking your kingdom

And to give all that we have

To gain the pearl beyond all price

Through our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but

to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness

Romans 12:1-6

Jesus talks to the Crowd.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Matthew 16:13-20

A Reflection on our Reading from Romans by William Cole.

'Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice' we pray after receiving Holy Communion. Familiar words can roll off our tongues without us realising just what we are praying. They derive from Paul's great letter to the Romans, chapter 12 and present an almost shocking, vivid and radical call. In ancient worship, whether Jewish or pagan, animals were offered as sacrifices in temples. Here, Paul is saying that one's whole self must be laid on the altar in sacrifice. The big difference is that whereas the offered animal is there to be killed, the Christian's self offering is all about coming alive. It begins in the glad offering of one's whole self to God whose mercy has come all the way to meet us in our sin and death, generous mercy we receive afresh in Holy Communion. Notice how presenting our bodies 'holy and acceptable' [for we are in Christ and indwelt by the Holy Spirit] is our spiritual worship. This is life embracing, 24/7 not just for Sundays and involves the renewal of our minds. It's a lifelong transformation of our attitudes, values and beliefs in the way of Christ, a key element of discerning and living out the good will of God. Archbishop William Temple expressed it in these resonant words: 'Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness, the nourishment of the mind with His truth, the purifying of the imagination by his beauty, the opening of the heart to His love, the surrender of the will to His purpose'

William Cole

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers

Sarah Stephenson, Lisa, Morgan, Margaret Ward, Joy Waistell Sarah Aldridge, Monika, Robert Brooks, Ann and Barrie Taylor.

Those who have died

Julia McCormack, Berenice Pickering, Mitchell Brooks, Brian Jones, Lynne Foxall, Graham Clarke Doreen Walker and Edna Conroy.

Please send requests for prayers to the Parish Office.

Prayer During the Week.

Sunday

Pray that we may always recognise Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16: 16)

Monday - (St Bartholomew)

Pray that we may be enabled to imitate the servanthood of Jesus. (Luke 22: 26)

Tuesday

Pray for sixth form students in their search for further education places this autumn.

Wednesday

Pray for new job-seekers that they won't be hindered by lack of GCSE exam results.

Thursday

Pray for the many coronavirus vaccine trials, and that the test volunteers will be kept safe.

Friday

Pray for those in places where lockdowns have been extended or re-imposed.

Saturday

Pray for those locations in the world where the virus is still rampant.

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 There will be a service led by Paul on Facebook and on You Tube this Sunday.

Compline

Sarah Malpass is inviting you to a Zoom meeting for Compline : Sunday at 9.00pm Join Zoom Meeting [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78825406928?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78825406928?pwd=RUDqR0c2UHNFRQjdnK3VqNHp0VjFEQT09) pwd=RUDqR0c2UHNFRQjdnK3VqNHp0VjFEQT09 Meeting ID: 788 2540 6928 Password: 1wPYT1 Please let Sarah know if you would like to join

Thank you

To those who contribute to our work by Standing Order, and by Stewardship [Envelopes and for those who are saving their envelopes at home until they feel safe to come to Church.

