

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry

St Benedict's and the Venerable Bede

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 30th August 2020

Trinity 12



God of constant mercy
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

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.

Jeremiah 15-15-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate

with the lowly;[f] do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God;[g] for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:9-end

Jesus talks to the Crowd.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in

The Churches of the Smestow Vale Team Ministry Bobbington Himley, Swindon, Trysull and Wombourne

the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”
Matthew 16:21-end

A Reflection on our Reading from the

Revd Charmaine Host

“We assume that it was natural for Jesus to choose God’s way, but the Gospels are full of suggestions that part of Jesus’s identification with us is that, like us, he has to make his choice for God over and over again, every day.”

Those words from Jane Williams, the wife of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, jumped out of the page as I read the commentary on this week’s gospel reading. They make sense of Jesus’ sharp response when Peter rebukes Jesus’ ideas about what being a messiah means.

“Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” Matt 16:23

To make the choice for God’s way over and over again, is the pilgrim path we are called to follow. The challenge of Matthew 16:25 still feels as sharp to me today even after thirty years of ordained life. I even wonder if this gets harder rather than easier as the years go by? In my early years of faith, it seemed easy to let go of my life and trust God for his good purposes; not least because I owned very little, so any material loss was minimal. But, as the years pass, possessions pile up and with it grows a sense of entitlement, then life can too easily become about what I want rather than what God wants.

The invitation today is to trust these words of Jesus and take them into our lives as we emerge from this ‘lockdown era’.

*‘For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.’
God bless us as we make our choice for God, over and over again.*

Charmaine

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

Graham Clarke, Cliff Whittall, Doreen Walker and Edna Conroy.

Please send requests for prayers to the Parish Office.

Prayer During the Week.

Sunday

Pray for those who suffer today for following in the steps of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 16: 24, 25)

Monday

Pray for those at risk from wildfires in California and for the fire-fighters.

Tuesday

Pray for children about to return to school and for their teachers.

Wednesday

Pray for all who are working on treatments and vaccines against Covid-19.

Thursday

Pray for those who have lost their businesses or have been made redundant because of the virus.

Friday

Pray for all resuming hospital treatments for cancer and other illnesses after a long break.

Saturday

Pray for those who have been shielding and are not happy about venturing out.

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 Please book early as last Sunday the 10.30am was nearly at our maximum capacity. There will be a service led by Paul on Facebook and on You Tube this Sunday.

Pews

We have four pews for sale, they are five feet long and £80.00 each. Please see Paul if you are interested.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is displayed at St Benedict’s. Due to Covid 19 our AGM is late. Please check to ensure that you name is on the roll. Application forms are at the back of church.

Are you missing singing hymns?

Pick your favourite and email it to Sarah Malpass. When a selection is compiled a zoom invite will be sent out to all so we can all sing along, together, from our homes.

Send your choices to
Sarahm.horn@googlemail.com
More details to follow.