

# The Smestow Vale Team Ministry



St Benedict's and the Venerable Bede

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 9th August 2020

Trinity 9

Gracious Father,  
revive your Church in our day,  
and make her holy, strong and faithful,  
For your glory's sake  
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Paul reminds his readers of the Generosity of God.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

*Romans 10.5–15*

## Jesus walks on the Water.

Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

*Matthew 14.22–33*

## **A Reflection for Trinity 9 from Susan Williams**

On a medical tour in the Solomon Islands, a ferocious storm blew up one night as we sailed along the aptly named Weather Coast of Guadalcanal. Buckets, mops, even a gas cylinder, flew from the boat and we began singing hymns! The disciples were in their normal working environment as *they* struggled with a storm on the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus had been trying to find time alone with God after the death of his cousin, John the Baptist. But as crowds followed him, he compassionately gave his time and energy to heal their sick and feed them. Finally he found time alone on a mountain to pray to the Father.

But around 3 o'clock in the morning, seeing his disciples struggle, in concern he comes to them and tells them not to be afraid. ('Don't be afraid' is the most frequent command in the Bible).

As Christians we are invited to see ourselves as the disciples in the boat, or even as Peter struggling to stay afloat, and to place our trust in Jesus. Because Jesus is Lord of the storms, we may trust him in *our* times of turbulence. God tells Jeremiah, 'Call to me and I will answer you', just as Paul reminds the Romans, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' (Joel 2:32.)

Many are now struggling because of Coronavirus; the sick and their carers especially Black, Asian and Ethnic Minorities, the bereaved, those isolated at home, our decision-makers, those with greatly reduced incomes or even with no job at all. We need to cry out to God and trust in his promise to give us help. Jesus is also teaching us to make time to be still and silent before God .

*Susan Williams*

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

#### **Sunday**

Pray that in the storms of life we may know Jesus' power to reach out and save.

(Matthew 14: 31)

#### **Monday**

Pray for those whose hopes that lockdown would be eased have been dashed.

#### **Tuesday**

Hold before God all who are suffering from long-term effects of the virus.

#### **Wednesday**

Pray for public health officers as they consider whether local lockdowns are necessary.

#### **Thursday**

Pray for rough sleepers, sheltered during the early part of lockdown, but now back on the streets.

#### **Friday**

Pray that God will restrain those who spread false information, including about the pandemic.

#### **Saturday - The Blessed Virgin Mary**

Pray for those who suffer oppression as they look to God to change their lives. (Luke 1: 52)

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

Sarah Stephenson, Margaret Ward, Joy Waistell, Sarah Aldridge, Monika, Robert Brooks, 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.

### **Facemasks**

Please remember that face coverings are mandatory for everyone in Places of Worship as from Saturday 8th August unless you have a legitimate reason to be exempted from this legal requirement (e.g. age, illness, disability).

They can be purchased from Jane, phone her on 07939 696486 for products.

£5 for men and women (different sizes and styles) and £3 for children. 100% Cotton, washable/reusable, attractive.

### **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.