

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry



St Benedict Biscop and the Venerable Bede
Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 4th October 2020

Dedication Festival

Almighty God,
To whose glory we celebrate
the dedication of this house of prayer:
We praise you for the many blessings
you have given those who worship here
and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you
and being filled with the Holy Spirit
become a living temple acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication.

22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. 23 He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, 24 the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. 25 Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' 26 Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! 28 Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; 29 that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. 30 Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

1Kings 8:22-30

Jesus cleanses the Temple in Jerusalem.

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 He said to them, "It is written,

'My house shall be called a house of prayer';
but you are making it a den of robbers."

14 The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. 15 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry 16 and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,

'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise for yourself?'"

A Reflection on our Readings by Revd Preb Paul Brown.

A quarter of a century ago, the parish church where I was working as a curate was devastated by fire. I will always remember the flames shooting out of the windows towards the top of the spire. It was a terrible night that was balanced by a wonderful service, when two years later the Bishop came to rededicate the Church and to celebrate all the

craftsmen and fund raisers who enabled the building to return as a place of worship, a symbol of an enduring faith.

Our Church of St Benedict has stood at the heart of our village for over a thousand years, we know when it was rebuilt by the Victorians, but when the Bishop came to dedicate the first church is lost in the mists of time. So on the first Sunday of October we celebrate its dedication. The Day that Anglo Saxon bishop came to bless the building, consecrating its altar and font and marking the walls with the cross.

A thousand years is a long time and so our church is a symbol of continuity in our village, but not just that its also a symbol of changing need. Although what we see today is primarily Victorian, if you look carefully you can see evidence of the need to extend, to change and repair. Each change being a response to the question what is our Church for ? I think that there are three answers to that question. Firstly it a place of worship, a space set apart for prayer and for villagers to praise the God who is at the heart of all life. Secondly it is a place of community, a dual purpose building where people can meet and celebrate events like our Annual Music Festival and thirdly it is a place of pilgrimage. Over the door of our Church it says "These gates shall not be shut by day " We are fortunate that St Benedict's is still open during the day so pilgrims (or visitors) can come at catch something or our faith and in the stillness offer their prayers.

So this Sunday we will give thanks not just for that event long ago, but also for the men and women, faithful Christians who have made sure that our Church is there for worship, for community and for pilgrimage for over a thousand years.

Paul Brown

"Please remember those who have asked for our prayers"

Lisa, Morgan, Margaret Ward, Joy Waistell, Monika, Dot Inskip, Michael Concannon, Sarah Aldridge, Kath Humpheson, Carl Baker and Marjorie Martin.

Those who have died

Ann Barker, Susan Thatcher and Sarah Stephenson.

Prayer During the Week.

Sunday

Pray that the Church as she welcomes those failed by the world. (Matthew 21: 14)

Monday

Pray for fortitude for college and university students in lockdown.

Tuesday

Continue to pray for wisdom for all in authority in the world and in the Church.

Wednesday

Pray for all in dire financial straits.

Thursday

Pray for those for whom Covid 19 is the least of their problems because of war, persecution or famine.

Friday

Pray for those who go out of their way to help others in their distress.

Saturday

Pray that we may look with hope to a future beyond the coronavirus.

Please send requests for prayers to the Parish Office.

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 telephone by 12noon on Saturday. There will be a service led by Paul on Facebook and on You Tube this Sunday.

Annual Church Meeting

Tonight with Evening Prayer

6.30pm at St Benedict's.

We will elect 2 churchwardens, 2 District Wardens, 5 members of Deanery Synod and 3 members of the P.C.C. and receive the Treasurers Report and the Annual Parish Report.

Electoral Roll

The new Electoral Roll and accounts are displayed at St Benedict's.

Zoom Coffee Morning

With more restrictions now in place about social distancing would you be interested in a zoom coffee morning ? Please let Paul know if your are interested.

