

# The Smestow Vale Team Ministry



**Father forgive them**

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

**Sunday 5th September 2020**

**Trinity 13**

Almighty God,  
You search us and know us:  
may we reply on you in strength  
And rest on you in weakness  
Now and all our days:  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

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

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Romans 13:8-end*

## **Jesus talks with the disciples about disputes and Forgiveness.**

Jesus spoke to his disciples. 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in

heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

*Matthew 18:15-20*

## **A Reflection on our Readings by Sarah Roberts Malpass**

When I was young, I used to love watching my father working, 'helping' and I'm sure getting in the way. He was mostly silent, apart from occasional whistling while at work, except if something wasn't right. He was a painter and decorator and took great care over his work, especially the preparation when wallpapering - no papering over the cracks allowed! Matthew 18:15-20 focuses on this need of attention to detail in order that the outward presentation of the ecclesia, the church community does not conceal a roughness, here representing wrongdoings and unresolved issues. Perhaps we Brits are uncomfortable with conflict itself and it's necessary resolution, so in our politeness (and distinct unease) prefer to ignore its existence, glossing over the issue. As anyone who has had arguments with a loved one will testify, unease will fester and will stunt growth within that relationship. Yet a brief sojourn into the world of social media reveals how blunt some can be when expressing opinions on what they deem to be right or wrong with others posts. This heavy handed approach is less than helpful however, and often creates more damage to a sensitive issue, with others online joining in, perhaps much more bluntly than they might in a private situation. A diverse range of opinions is welcome and illuminating, but

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

the anonymity of social media can be damaging in moving to any common ground or reconciliation. Jesus though, gives clear advice on how to approach those who are deemed to have done wrong in the eyes of the church, and it begins much more subtly; a one to one conversation, before involving the wider community. A direct instruction- to address the problem, rather than ignoring it, but to do so sensitively and with love, as once again that overarching theme of the epistles exhorts us to love one another. And by repairing damage done (through words or action) reconciliation is closer, and there is much less need to paper over the cracks!

*Sarah Roberts-Malpass*

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

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

**Those who have died**

Doreen Walker, Clifford Whittall, Arthur Benbow, and Betty Farrier.

Please send requests for prayers to the Parish Office.

**Prayer During the Week.**

**Sunday**

Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring agreement among Christians. (Matthew 18: 19)

**Monday**

Pray that children returning to school will be confident in the safety precautions.

**Tuesday**

Pray for returning holiday-makers as they risk changes in protocols at short notice.

**Wednesday**

pray for Christians under persecution whose problems have been increased by the virus.

**Thursday**

Pray for all who have been shielding as they venture out once more.

**Friday**

Pray for asylum -seekers risking their lives on the Mediterranean Sea and the English Channel.

**Saturday**

Pray for wisdom for Government to make good decisions first time.

**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). Please telephone by 12noon on Saturday. 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=RUDqR0c2UHNfQjdnK3VqNHp0VjFEQT09) [pwd=RUDqR0c2UHNfQjdnK3VqNHp0VjFEQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78825406928?pwd=RUDqR0c2UHNfQjdnK3VqNHp0VjFEQT09) 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.

**Zoom Meetings**

Feeling lonely and isolated ? Would you like to join a zoom meeting for a weekly chat and catch up ? Please email the Parish Office if you are interested.

**Resumption of the Prayer Meeting.**

We will meet on Tuesday 29th. Sept.2020 at 7pm for 45mins. People will need to book with me at [suewatson@telecomplus.org.uk](mailto:suewatson@telecomplus.org.uk) or phone 07932 175846- maximum numbers possible 15.

**Resumption of Morning Prayer**

Morning Prayer in St Benedict's will resume this Tuesday. We will use the nave so as to maintain social distancing. Don't forget that you must wear a mask.

**Electoral Roll**

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

**Thank you**

To Peter who pressure washed the walls at Bede to remove the egg. Sadly the egg has damaged the paintwork on the door.

