

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry



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

Sunday 13th September 2020

Trinity 14

Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy
and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Joseph forgives his brothers.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Genesis 50:15-21

How many times should I forgive ?

Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be

made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Matthew 18:21-35

A Reflection on our Readings by Paul Brown

Andrew Lloyd Webbers Joseph and his amazing technicolour dream coat has made Joseph's story one of the best known in the Old Testament. Joseph's story is told between chapter's 37 and 50 of the book of Genesis. It is gripping stuff. Joseph is the 11th son of an aging and dotting dad who makes the mistake of having favourites, not only amongst his wives, but also amongst his children.

Joseph grows up to be both spoilt and arrogant. Alienating his brothers by his grandiose schemes and the way he flaunts his Father's gift, that infamous coat of many colours.

Joseph's brother's find him so insufferable that they scheme to kill him, relenting, only at the last minute and selling him into slavery. A harsh and difficult life, contrasting, with the privileges given to him by his dad. The story goes on with some highs and lows and there is even a spell in prison until his skill in interpreting dream brings him to Pharaoh's notice. Then life changes.

Joseph is not without skill or gifts. A capable administrator and strategist he becomes Pharaoh's right hand man. He had real power, power he could so easily have used to exact revenge on his brothers for the way they treated him. Yes, he does play a bit of cat and mouse with them, but thoughts of revenge, soon turn to forgiveness, to the hurts of the past being put behind him, to forgiveness and the healing of relationships.

Forgiveness is the theme in our Gospel reading, Peter knows its importance, but is unsure its limits. He asks as many as seven times, a number he feels is generous and he must have been shocked when Jesus responds with seventy times seven and goes on to tell the story of the ungrateful servant.

As I re-read the parable the words of the Lord's prayer jumped into my mind we pray "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Forgiveness isn't easy especially when we are deeply hurt. But Joseph reminds us it is possible even if it involves many tears.

Paul Brown

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers

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

Those who have died

Clifford Whittall, Betty Farrier, Roger Clowson, Denise Whitmore, Ann Barker.

Please send requests for prayers to the Parish Office.

Prayer During the Week.

Sunday

Pray that we may always be prepared to forgive. (Matthew 18: 21, 22)

Monday

Holy Cross Day Pray that the world may be saved through Jesus Christ. (John 3: 17)

Tuesday

Pray that people may have patience to continue to follow the Covid rules.

Wednesday

Pray for the meeting of the PCC this evening.

Thursday

Pray for a breakthrough in the trade negotiations with the European Union.

Friday

Pray that people working from home may have wisdom concerning a return to the office.

Saturday

Pray for universities and colleges as they prepare to receive students next month.

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 YouTube this Sunday.

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 or phone 07932 175846- maximum numbers possible 15.

Resumption of Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer in St Benedict's has resumed. 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.

