

# The Smestow Vale Team Ministry

St Benedict Biscop and the Venerable Bede

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 27th September 2020

Trinity 16



Almighty God,  
you have taught us through your Son  
that love is the fulfilling of the law:  
grant that we may love you with our whole heart  
and our neighbours as ourselves  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

*Philippians 2:1-13*

## Jesus tells the story of the two brothers.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing

these things, who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven," he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin," we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'

*Matthew 21:23-32*

## A Reflection

on our Readings by the Revd Richard Fisher

Jesus is in Jerusalem now. He arrived recently on a donkey, would you believe, with joyful swirling leaves and branches! The top brass are not happy, though. The "Archbishops" and that. They're mad

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

with him Jesus 'cos he's gone into their Temple and driven out all the businesspeople exploiting the poor. What right has he to do that? They are the ones to give permission for any changes the way the Temple runs, not him. Who does this Jesus think he is?!

We are in for some conflict in the rest of Matthew's gospel: there is now this power struggle going on between the authorities and Jesus. It starts in today's gospel passage. Remember that the vineyard is a symbol of Israel in the parable of the two sons.

Neither of them does what the father wants, although if one was forced to choose between them you'd have to say that the one who did what the father wanted, in the end, was better. Both were imperfect, though. Jesus carries it further when he says to the priests and elders of Israel that "tax collectors and prostitutes will enter the kingdom ahead of you". Notice that Jesus does not say "instead of you", but "ahead of you". For as long as they, and we, live - each of us has the potential for change. If we profess something, we need to express our faith in the way we live. Words, without action, are of little worth. Because all people are made in the image and likeness of God, love, care and respect for all God's creations, in their rich diversity, is found in those who do not profess to serve God in any way. As well as in people who profess a different faith from us.

Richard Fisher

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

Lisa, Morgan, Margaret Ward, Joy Waistell, Monika, Dot Inskip, Michael Concannon, Sarah Aldridge, Robert Brooks, Kath Humpheson, Carl Baker, Ann and Barrie Taylor.

### **Those who have died**

Betty Farrier, Roger Clowson, Anita Barrow, Sarah Stephenson, Susan Thatcher

Please send requests for prayers to the Parish Office.

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

#### **Sunday**

Pray that we may recognise God as the authority for all we do. (Matthew 21: 27)

#### **Monday**

Pray that God will bless and direct the work of all fighting the virus on all fronts.

#### **Tuesday**

Pray for all peoples whose persecution is made worse by the reactions to Covid19

#### **Wednesday** - Michael and All Angels

Pray that we may be open to see the activities of the heavenly angels at work in this world. (John 1: 51)

#### **Thursday**

Pray for all at risk from the wild fires in both North and South America.

#### **Friday**

Pray for wisdom, honesty and integrity in the American Presidential campaigns.

#### **Saturday**

Pray for our own Government and Parliament in the problems they face at this 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.

### **Resumption of the Prayer Meeting.**

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

### **Morning Prayer**

Morning Prayer is said daily at 9.00am. We will use the nave so as to maintain social distancing. Don't forget that you must wear a mask.

### **Electoral Roll**

The new Electoral Roll is displayed at St Benedict's.

### **Grapevine**

We are sorry that with the increased restrictions relating to the Covid 19 Pandemic Grapevine will only be available digitally from the 29th September to those 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 ([office@stbenedictbiscop.org.uk](mailto:office@stbenedictbiscop.org.uk)) requesting a copy.

### **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 you are interested.

### **Annual Church Meeting**

Sunday 4th October at 6.30pm in St Benedict's. Nominations are requested for 2 Churchwardens, 2 District Wardens 5 Deanery Synod representatives and two members for the P.C.C. Forms are in church.

