

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry

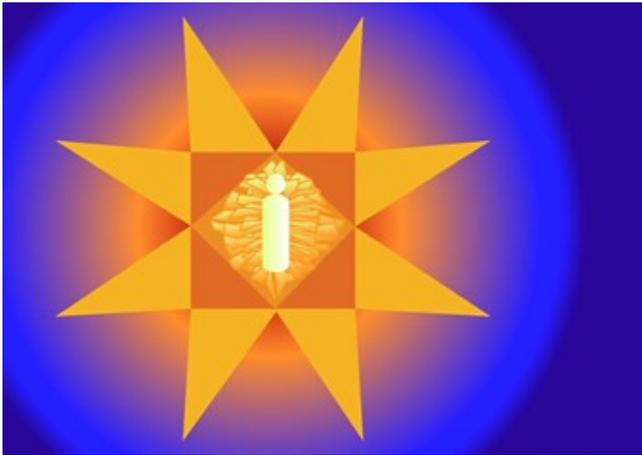
All Saints and Holy Cross

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 1st November 2020

All Saints Sunday

God of holiness,
Your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



John writes to his followers to remind them that They are children of God.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

1 John 3.1-3

The Sermon on the Mount.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you

Matthew 5:1-12

A reflection on our Gospel by Laurie Gainer

If you go into St Benedict's Church on a bright sunny day and look at the windows in the nave, lit by the sun, you will see many Saints, some familiar to us and some quite obscure, but all portrayed in bright colour.

There are many Saints listed in the Anglican calendar - on some days there are two or three wrestling for attention! This being so, why do we need a day set aside for All Saints? The readings make it clear that we are not only commemorating highly spiritual people who have somehow been squeezed out of the calendar - we are talking more about ordinary followers of Jesus Christ down the ages.

In Revelation, St John talks of a multitude that no-one could count from every nation, and speakers of every language. John's letter refers to us as children of God, who will one day be like him. The Beatitudes speak more clearly of who these people are: the poor in spirit; the grief-stricken; the pursuers of all that is right and good; the peacemakers, merciful and heart-pure; and those who are persecuted because of their love for Jesus Christ.

This suggests that any true follower of Jesus Christ can be referred to as a saint (note the small "s"). How many of those criteria do we meet? Are we prepared to work un-noticed (poor in spirit)? Are we grieving for the state of God's world - both the people and creation as a whole? Do we hunger for

right to prevail by working for justice? Do we strive for peace with our neighbours, in the wider community, and in the world? Do we support the persecuted of whatever faith or nationality wherever they may be? Are we prepared to be merciful, giving way in an argument, even when we “know” we are right? Do we attempt to be pure in heart in every decision we make?

If all (or some) of these things are true, then we may one day be considered part of that multitude being commemorated on All Saints Day.

Laurie

“Please remember those who have asked for our prayers”

Lisa, Morgan, Margaret Ward, Joy Waistell, Monika, Dot Inskip, Michael Concannon, Sarah Aldridge, Jane, Delma Scriven and Carl Baker.

Those who have died

Marjorie Martin, Kath Humpheson, Jean Porter, Ruth Hall, Ronald Gamston and Brian Wheway

Prayers for All Saint’s Tide

All Saint’s Sunday

Pray that we may seek to follow the teachings of Jesus. (Matthew 5: 2)

Monday (All Souls)

Pray that all who have died during the pandemic will rest in peace and rise in glory. (John 6: 39).

Tuesday

Pray for all casing their votes in the American elections today.

Wednesday

Pray for people in areas under increased restrictions this week.

Thursday

“Remember 5th November,” and pray for all who work to keep our ministers and MPs safe.

Friday

Please pray for prisoners who are being kept in cells 23 hours a day as a Covid precaution.

Saturday

Continue to pray for a good outcome to discussions with the E. U.

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.

All Soul’s Tide

This year our All Soul's Tide Service with the commemoration of the Departed is on Facebook . St Benedict’s will be open for anyone who wishes to light a candle for their loved ones departed.

All Saintstide treats

Sarah has some party bags to celebrate All Saintstide. Each bag will have some craft suggestions and some sweets. Please let Sarah know

If you know any children of Primary School age who would like a party bag as we celebrate the light of Christ as it shines in the lives of the saints.

Pew

We still have one pew for sale £80, please contact Paul if you are interested.

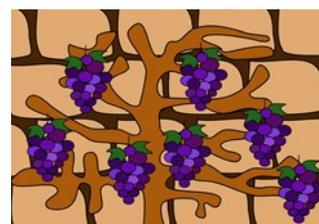
Remembrance Sunday

Please remember that this Remembrance tide will be different due to Covid 19 restrictions and regulations. There will be Parish Communion with a short silence at 9.30am. Booking is essential due to our limited capacity.

There can be **No** large gathering at the Memorial at 11.00am. If you would like to place a wooden cross in a field of Remembrance and make a donation to the Royal British Legion before Remembrance Sunday or up to Armistice Day these are available in Church. The Chair of the Parish Council will lay a single wreath on behalf of the whole community at 11.00am when the last post will be played.

Other wreaths can be laid informally.

The very short service will be streamed on Facebook.



*Jesus said I am the vine
You are the branches John 15:5*