

# The Smestow Vale Team Ministry

St Benedict Biscop and the Venerable Bede

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 25th October 2020

The Last Sunday after Trinity

Bible Sunday



Merciful God,  
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,  
that trusting in your word  
and obeying your will  
we may enter the unfailing joy  
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Paul reminds the Christians in Thessalonica of his love for them

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed— God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

*1 Thessalonians 2.1-8*

## Jesus is challenged by the Pharisees.

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second

is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Whose Son Is the Messiah? While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?” “The son of David,” they replied. He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’? For he says, “‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.”’ If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions

## A reflection on our Gospel The Greatest Commandment by William Cole

Frequently when asked a difficult question, often raised to catch him out, Jesus gave a controversial or provocative answer. There could, however, be nothing to argue with in his impeccable response to the legal expert who asked Jesus ‘which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind’ replied Jesus, echoing closely Deuteronomy chapter 6, vs 4. 5 . Now, as then, this comprehensive commandment is foundational to Jewish faith; life. It is a salutary reminder for us today that Jesus was a Jew . He called it ‘ the greatest and first commandment’, then promptly setting beside it the second ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’. Here Jesus quotes from Leviticus chapter 19, vs18 and claims that

everything in the ancient Jewish law is summed up in these two commands. They belong together, hand in glove. How telling that Jesus didn't specify a specific, detailed law 'do this' or 'don't do that'. Rather these two great commandments are a whole life orientation. The call is to love God 'with every globule of one's being' as a modern writer puts it. As followers of Jesus today, God still calls us to shape our lives by these two great commandments – simple to say, but utterly absorbing to live out, claiming every breath we take over a lifetime. They are a response to the reality that we are first loved by God in Jesus Christ. 'Beloved, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another' 1 John chapter 4 vs 11. The two commandments are distinct but inseparable. We love God as we love other people, made in his image and we love our neighbour for God's sake.

William

**"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 and Ruth Hall

**Prayers During the Week.**

**Bible Sunday**

Pray that we may be able to recognise the signs of the times. (Matthew 32: 33)

**Monday**

Pray that regional restrictions will be effective.

**Tuesday**

Pray that those under restriction will not suffer financially.

**Wednesday - Saints Simon and Jude**

Pray that we may be able to testify to the work of Jesus in our lives. (John 15:27)

**Thursday**

Pray for the mental health of people as Covid restrictions continue.

**Friday**

Pray for families separated by the virus.

**Saturday**

Pray for physical and spiritual safety for children "trick-or-treating."

**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.

**Services on Remembrance Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion

**9.30am** Parish Communion

**All Soul's Tide**

This year our All Soul's Tide Service with the commemoration of the Departed will be on Facebook from the 31st of October.

**Next Sunday is All Saints Sunday**

**Tuesdays Evening**

Prayer with Revd Sue Watson 7.00pm at St Benedict's  
Please let Sue know if you are able to come.

**All Saintstide treats**

Sarah is preparing 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.



Please send requests for prayers to the Parish Office.