

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry

St Benedict Biscop and the Venerable Bede

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 11th October 2020

Harvest



Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
Grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need
and for our own well being,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Paul encourages generosity

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 9 As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness[a] endures forever.”

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; 12 for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

2 Cor 9; 6-12

Jesus Parable of the Rich Farmer.

Then Jesus told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17 And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ 18 Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ 20 But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being

demand of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21 So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

Do Not Worry

22 He said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! 25 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? 26 If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin: yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 28 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! 29 And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. 30 For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

Luke 12:16-30

A reflection on our Gospel from Sarah Roberts Malpass.

When you think of harvest what do you picture in your mind? Is it the farmers & quote; taking the Harvest as we find in verses of our hymnody? Is it a

beautiful display of vegetables in church showing an abundance of this years crop, or does it speak to you of feeding all?

This year, harvest looks a bit different in churches across the land, with outdoor services planned for some or donations of only tins or dried food where previously fresh produce was welcomed. We are in strange times when people have harvested; and stored up an abundance of what they deemed necessary to accumulate. Our shops have surely never seen toilet rolls, flour, pasta and suchlike sell so quickly as they did a few months back – all markers of peoples need to feel they can get through testing times. Doubts crept in that there would be enough to go around in so many peoples minds, despite assurances that there would be enough if people only bought what was necessary. Yet our Gospel reading challenges this need to store or to hoard. The rich man; storing up grain is an example that Jesus puts into sharp focus, teaching through this parable that we are not to behave in that way, not to be foolish focussing on selfishly hoarding. Instead we are to look towards the birds of the air or the lilies as a way of trusting and understanding Gods provision for us all. Living each day in the comfort of that which goes beyond materialism. Our harvest focus this year demonstrates a way in which those of us who are able can share some of our abundance with those who are in need. As such through generosity God works through us all as we live our calling as followers of Christ, striving for fairness, equality and a fairer sharing of resources. So as we celebrate harvest we can do so with thankfulness for all that we receive and all that we can give.

Sarah

“Please remember those who have asked for our prayers

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

Those who have died

Anita Barrow and Marjorie Martin

Prayer During the Week

Sunday

Pray that we may not succumb to love of possessions. (Luke 12: 15)

Monday

Pray for the right use of the resources of nature, that all the world’s life may be sustained.

Tuesday

Pray for strength and healing for all sufferers from Covid19.

Wednesday

Pray for all businesses under threat of closure because of lack of customers.

Thursday

Pray for all efforts to counteract the threat of global warming.

Friday

Pray that the best arrangements for the Brexit deal may be agreed.

Saturday

Pray the God may speed the time when life can return to normal.

Please send requests for prayers to the Parish Office.

Sunday Worship at St Benedict’s

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

11.00am 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.

Annual Church Meeting

Thank you to everyone who supported our church AGM. Congratulations to Joan Parker who has been elected Churchwarden and to Hilary Moore and Peter Cartwright who have been re elected. Martin Garrington, Anne Freeman, Shirley Wall, Nigel Welch have been elected to serve on Deanery Synod. David Crathorne, Derek Bryant and Roy Wootton have been elected to the P.C.C.

Our thanks to Derek who has retired as Church Warden having served a four and a bit years.

Harvest Charity

Our Harvest Charity is Tear Fund’s Project with the Rohingya Refugees. You can donate by cash or by bank transfer.

Thank you

