

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry



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

Sunday 22nd November

Christ the King

God our Father

Help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel .

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken

Ezekiel 34.11–16, 20–24

Jesus tells the parable of the sheep and the goats.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.”’

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Matthew 25.31–46

A Reflection from Revd Charmaine Host.

This Sunday is the feast of Christ the King. Arriving at the conclusion of the Church's year, it reminds us that almost another year has passed, and we need to gird ourselves up for the coming season of Advent and new beginnings. When 2020 is finally over we may want to breathe a collective sigh of relief and pray that the worst of the Coronavirus pandemic is behind us, but we are not there yet. There is however cause for thanksgiving with the news of a successful vaccine on the horizon.

The conclusion of this year, both ecclesiastical and temporal, has a particular poignancy for Ian and I because it also marks the ending of over thirty years of stipendiary ministry and we will be moving into retirement from 1st January 2021.

It is a time of endings and not yet beginnings, it is unknown territory, for the first time in thirty years the choice of where to live has been ours alone to make. It has taken the best part of a year to decide where our, hopefully, 'forever home' will be and if everything goes to plan, Wellesbourne in South Warwickshire is our destination. This is near to our daughter Liz, son-in-law Matt and their daughters Hope and Eowyn. It is also into the same deanery where I was vicar for eleven years so hopefully there will be some friendly faces around still! Inevitably this is also a time of looking back for us both, reflecting on what the thirty years have brought our way and hoping that we have been faithful enough to our calling. I have in mind the counsel that is offered in the realm of parenting, that parents need not be perfect just 'good enough.' I have the feeling that this is what is going on for Paul as he writes to the Ephesians, and perhaps he too is reflecting on his ministry thus far. Interestingly he does not focus on himself, or seek reassurance about his success, rather he continues to give thanks for them and encourages their faith in Jesus Christ 'who God raised from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.....' Paul reminds them that Christ is King. A fitting reminder at the end of the church's year, a welcome reminder on the road to retirement and new, yet unknown, beginnings. But we are not there yet! So, I continue to pray for and give thanks for the churches in the Smestow Vale Team.

Charmaine

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers

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

Those who have died

Jean Porter, Brian Williams, Andrew Glazzard, David Dunn and Maureen Brennan

Please send requests for prayers to the Parish Office.

Prayers During the Week

Prayers for the Feast of Christ the King

Pray that we may care for the least regarded as if we were caring for Jesus. (Matthew 25:40)

Monday

Pray for all the efforts being made to restrict the spread of Covid 19.

Tuesday

Pray for all "frontline workers" for strength and endurance in these times of stress.

Wednesday

Pray for a peaceful transfer of power in the United States.

Thursday

Pray for a successful roll-out of the Corona virus vaccine in the New Year.

Friday

Pray for an agreement between the negotiators on future trade with the European Union.

Saturday

Pray for plans for a safe, happy and blessed Christmas.

National Lockdown

St Benedict's will be open for private prayer through out the lockdown. Sadly there will be no services in church (except funerals.) until the 6th of December

Zoom Prayer Meeting this Tuesday

If you would like to join please email me on suewatson@telecomplus.org.uk and I will send you a link and an explanation of how to join. Don't be afraid Sue will help you with the technical bit.

Christmas Lights

I have bought 12 sets of Christmas lights to put on the yew trees at the front of St Benedict's during Advent. They are battery operated and cost £20 each (with batteries) If you would like to sponsor a set top cheer us all up please give the money to Martin or into the Parish Office.

Friday Coffee @ 11 with Sarah by Zoom

Meeting ID: 779 6471 7903

Passcode: y6Zs9C

Need help with Zoom contact Sarah
Sarahm.horn@googlemail.com