

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry



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

Sunday 3th October 2021

Dedication Festival

Almighty God,
To whose glory we celebrate
the dedication of this house of prayer:
we praise you for the many blessings
You have given those who worship here
and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you
and being filled with the Holy Spirit
become a living temple acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

1Kings 8:22-30

Jesus cleanses the Temple in Jerusalem.

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "It is written,

'My house shall be called a house of prayer';
but you are making it a den of robbers."

The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,

'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise for yourself?'"

A Reflection on our Readings by Laurie Gainer

At St Benedict's, the first Sunday in October each year is Dedication Sunday. It commemorates the dedication of the church, though the actual date is unknown. The Patronal Festival would be on

January 12th (which is not the best time of the year to encourage people to come to Church!)

It was winter too in Jerusalem for the Dedication Festival, and Jesus was keeping under shelter, people gathering round to hear him. He was concerned not with the dedication of the Temple, but for those who took to heart to his teaching (not those around him sheltering from the winter cold whom he did not see as members of his flock) that they should dedicate their lives to following him, just as sheep follow a shepherd. Doing this, he says, will ensure that no-one can lead them astray.

We cannot see Jesus, but we have three ways to find out his purposes for us: to read about him, in the scriptures and in works by people who have themselves studied the scriptures thoroughly; to come to him daily in prayer, listening in our hearts for a response to our prayers; and in all the situations of our daily lives being open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Each person must decide for herself or himself what it means to follow Jesus. For one it will mean answering a call to some form of specific ministry; for another it will mean doing ones daily work to the best of ones ability; for another it will mean giving up much to care for a sick child or parent. One thing we can be sure about: any work done in his name trusting in his strength will receive his blessing.

Laurie Gainer

Prayer During the Week.

Dedication Sunday

Pray that we may recognise the voice of Jesus, and follow him. (John 10:17)

Monday

Pray for those suffering the effects of the La Palma volcanic eruption.

Tuesday

Pray for the victims of the Al-Shabab car bomb in Mogadishu.

Wednesday

Pray for the distribution industry in this country, that goods will reach our communities.

Thursday

Pray that the time to catch up on cancer diagnosis and treatment will be shortened.

Friday

Pray that vacancies in health care and social care may be filled.

Saturday

Pray for Afghanistan, that the Taliban will not revert to extreme physical punishments.

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers

Joy Waistell, Sarah Aldridge, Geoff Truby, Ann and Barrie Taylor, Olga Barrow-Collins and Andrew.

Those who have died

Mary Carpenter and John Shepherd

Please send requests for prayer to the Parish Office

Services During the Week

At St Benedict's

8.00am Holy Communion

10.15 Sunday Club

10.30am Parish Communion

6.30pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 9.30am Holy Communion

At the Ven Bede

9.00am Parish Communion

Monday 10.00am Little Fish

Thursday 11.00am Holy Communion.

Its really helpful if you book your place with Hilary for the Sunday Services by 12noon on Saturday either by email hilmoore@gmail.com or telephone 892856.

Dayspring

Our Dayspring Club for those who have lost their partners will restart at the Ven Bede on the 11th of October.

New members are very welcome.

Harvest

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Harvest Charity Water harvest a magnificent £497.65 including Gift Aid

Harvest Songs of Praise

4.00pm at St John's Swindon this afternoon.

Everyone welcome.

Next Sunday

Our 10.30am Parish Communion will include Holy Baptism

Grapevine

An Electronic edition of grapevine is now available. If you would like an electronic copy please contact the Parish Office

Thank You

Thank you to the Revd Susan Watson who joins us For her final Sunday working in our Team Ministry today. We have loved having Sue as a colleague and companion.

