

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry

St Benedict Biscop and the Venerable Bede

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 12 September 2021

Trinity 15



Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth
That we may enjoy eternal life
In Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

A reading from the letter of James

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue – a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

James 3:1-12

Jesus asks Peter and important question.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah;

and still others, one of the prophets.' Jesus asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Mark 8:27-end

A Reflection on our Gospel from Susan Williams

I had a friend who studied very hard for her Masters Degree in Public Health and was about to sit her final exam. She told her daughter, who had panic attacks, not to hesitate to call her out of the exam if she needed her. All her hard work would be lost in a few seconds! I admired her self-denial.

The Churches of the Smestow Vale Team Ministry Bobbington Himley, Swindon, Trysull and Wombourne

Jesus asks the disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' Answer: 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' John, Elijah and the prophets hardly give us an image of 'gentle Jesus meek and mild'. The people saw Jesus acting with power and giving powerful warnings. Then a second question, '... who do you say that I am?' Like a thunderclap, Peter answers, 'You are the Messiah'! But Jesus was so different from what Peter expected. Jesus was a healer, not a military leader. He spoke of forgiveness, not of revenge....

The miracle is that people still choose to become public disciples of Christ and the church continues to grow. Once, some Muslims who had become Christians, were baptised in Liverpool Cathedral. They were frightened when the service was televised. If their families discovered they had converted, they might kill them.

We are fortunate here that, on the whole, it is comparatively safe and easy to follow Jesus. Yet world-wide, Open Doors International say that more than 340 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution for their faith. We can give and we can pray. Today, with so much terrible suffering in the world we may see Christ's death as a sign that God himself shares in our suffering. As Edmund Shillito, Pastor during WW1, wrote:

'The other gods were strong; but Thou wast weak; they rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne; but to our wounds only God's wounds can speak, And not a god has wounds but Thou alone.'

Susan

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers

Joy Waistell, Sarah Aldridge, Geoff Truby, Olly Cadman, Miriam Hackett, Ann and Barrie Taylor, Graham Bradley, Olga Barrow-Collins and Andrew.

Those who have died

Mary Carpenter and June Morgan

Please send requests for prayer to the Parish Office

Prayer During the Week.

Sunday

Pray for those who risk their lives in serving Jesus and his Church. (Mark 8:35)

Monday

Please pray for the safety of those left behind in Afghanistan.

Tuesday

Holy Cross Day Pray that faith in Jesus as the Son of God will save the world. (John 3: 17) and for our team church of Holy Cross Bobbington

Wednesday

Pray for all suffering from the effects of global warming, including from floods in the USA.

Thursday

Pray for all fleeing from terror and persecution that they may find a safe refuge.

Friday

Pray for the people of Guinea following Sunday's coup.

Saturday

Pray for good relations between China and Taiwan.

This weeks Services

At St Benedict's

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Communion

3.00pm Holy Baptism

4.00pm Holy Baptism

7.00pm Taize Prayer

Tuesday 9.30am Holy Communion

At the Ven Bede

9.00am Parish Communion

Monday 10.00am Little Fish

Thursday 11.00am Holy 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.

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is said daily at 9.00am at St Benedict's. We use the nave so as to maintain social distancing.

Children's Society

Carol Porter has kindly agreed to become our link person for the Children's Society. Boxes can be brought to and then collected from church on a Sunday. Carol will collect boxes if requested.

Sue Watson

Sue will retire from her work in the Team Ministry on the 1st Sunday of October. If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift contributions can be made online to the parish account marked Sue or given to Joan Parker.

Sunday Club

It was wonderful to see the children back at St Benedict's for Sunday Club. They looked fantastic with their balloons. Sunday Club will now be back every week for more fun.

Pastoral Visitors

Our Course for those who are thinking about pastoral visiting starts this Tuesday at 7.30pm at St Benedict's.