

## REFLECTIONS

### Reflection

We read in our Gospel passage (9v36) that Jesus had compassion on the crowds who were harassed and helpless, like a sheep without a shepherd. We can look around at the world today and see that some things do not change. The needs are indeed great, yet the labourers are few. We may also empathise with the disciples too, being sent out into the needy world to do what Jesus had been doing – to proclaim the good news and to heal the sick (10v7&8). The good news of the Kingdom of God was to be communicated freely without cost, not forced onto unwitting people but shared in humility and peace.

Commentators note that the introduction to this Gospel section is almost identical to the beginning of Jesus' first discourse of the Sermon on the Mount (compare 4:23 with 9.35). Following his initial teaching Matthew records Jesus travelling the regions and sharing the Good News with accompanying signs and wonders. Our Gospel passage today sees the invitation to the disciples to join in this ministry with him and that invitation still stands for us today. Matthew uses this occasion to list the names of Jesus' disciples and calls them Apostles. Apostle simple means 'sent out'. As disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ today, we are also called to be Apostles, those sent out with Good News into a world ripe for Harvest.

### Going Deeper

In response to Jesus' command in verse 38, 'Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest,' the disciples had become part of the answer to their own prayers! I believe it was our Diocesan Bishop Stephen Cottrell who said something like do not dare to pray for something that you are not willing to be part of the answer. If we pray for the poor and hungry, how do we respond to the desperate plight of those in our world or justify the abundance of how we live? If we pray for the climate catastrophe confronting us, how do we live more sustainably and responsibly for future generations?

### I Wonder...

If we pray for God's Kingdom to come, how do we become part of the answer to bringing healing, peace and hope for our world in need?

## THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ONLINE

### Sunday - Live on Zoom

9.30am Holy Communion President: Paula Griffiths  
9.30am Morning Prayer Leader: Tim Hardingham  
10.00am Holy Communion President: John Saxon

### Pre-recorded (youtube)

Act of Worship Leader: Alex Jeewan  
Preacher: John Risby

### Tuesday - Live on Zoom

5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: Marisa Baltrock

### Wednesday - Live on Zoom

9.30am Holy Communion Caroline Curren Alex Jeewan

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

<b>Mon 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 30 & Luke 12:1-12 Evening Psalm 28
<b>Tue 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 36 & Luke 12:13-21 Evening Psalm 33 & Romans 7:7-end
<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 34 & Luke 12:22-31 Evening Psalm 119:33-56
<b>Thurs 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 37 & Luke 12:32-40 Evening Psalm 40
<b>Fri 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 31 & Luke 12:41-48 Evening Psalm 35
<b>Sat 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 42 & Luke 12:49-end Evening Psalm 46

# The Grapevine

COVERING THE PARISHES OF SAFFRON WALDEN, WIMBISH,  
DEBDEN, ASHDON AND HADSTOCK.

**First Sunday after Trinity**  
**14<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

### Collect

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### First Reading: Romans 5.1-8

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

### Gospel: Matthew 9.35 - 10.8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Churches Together Prayer Cycle: In June please pray for:  
**Saffron Walden Assemblies Team, Stort Valley Schools Trust**

The family and friends of those who have died recently:  
**Edwin Gillings, Kathleen Margaret Green, Norah Bradley**

## EVENTS

**ANY QUESTIONS THIS SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE at 4pm ON ZOOM.** The Rt Revd. Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester who was to have been our speaker at the Weekend Away, has kindly agreed to answer any questions we wish to pose on any subject. If you wish to ask a question please contact Alex Jeewan 01799 531153 [vicar.camvillages@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.camvillages@gmail.com) More information on the website where you can request a zoom link.

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

It has been lovely to receive many messages of encouragement and congratulations for my licensing as Team Vicar here in the Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry. Dawn and I really love living and working in this community, not least in Wimbish and Debden. People have been saying it is a shame a 'physical' service couldn't happen, and obviously it is. The service took place via Zoom and I was joined by many more people who wouldn't normally have been able to make the journey to be here because of work, family or other commitments. People took great delight in seeing familiar faces and exchanging personal greetings.

So, in this strange socially distanced and more isolated existence, we have found new ways of being connected and intimate. These are ways we would probably never have discovered if it weren't for the changes enforced upon us because of the pandemic.

People are wary of change, even fight against it, yet it can be fruitful and life giving. I am reminded of a saying that takes this view. **'Healthy things grow. Growing things change. Changing things challenge. Challenge forces us to trust God. Trust leads to obedience. Obedience makes us healthy. Healthy things grow.'** It is a re-enforcing circle that will encourage us and lead us into new experiences and understanding of God and each other, especially through periods of change.

Of course, being in vacancy and in search for a new Rector is a change that challenges us. In due course, receiving the ministry of a new Team Rector will be another change. Change is all around us and we need to rise to the challenges it brings us. Trust and obedience are key to this (Psalm 37 v5) and should be sought through prayer, individually and corporately. The Team Rector vacancy is still being advertised and is attracting applications and so plans are being made to interview in July. Let's meet this challenge, rooted in prayer, with trust in and obedience to God, treading carefully in the pathways he shows us. In this way we will be a healthy and growing community of God's people.

May we always be healthy and growing through the changes that challenge us.

Best wishes  
John Saxon

PS Please pray for the change in our Diocesan Bishop too, as the Rt Reverend Stephen Cottrell prepares to be made Archbishop of York.

## PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Heavenly Father, rather than being fearful of the changes this life throws upon us, help us to turn to you in trust and obedience to face the challenges that come our way. May we be guided, strengthened and equipped for all that you call us to, and so, being nourished by your love, we may grow as your disciples. Amen

## NEWS

**ALL CHURCHES IN THE TEAM AND THE PARISH OFFICE REMAIN CLOSED.** We are reviewing government and national church guidelines regarding the reopening of our churches. **Please check St Mary's website for updates.**

**EMAIL BULLETINS** We are issuing regular email bulletins that highlight information from the website, attach the Grapevine and service sheet and provide the Zoom links for live services that weekend. Please email Dawn at [office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org) if you would like to be added to the distribution list.

**WORSHIP ONLINE** There are several ways of joining in our team worship which can be accessed from links on St Mary's Church at Home webpage. <http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/churchathome> You can watch a pre-recorded services and you can participate in live Zoom Services around the team. The service sheets and Grapevine are also available on the webpage.

**YOU CAN NOW JOIN LIVE WORSHIP BY PHONE - you don't need a computer or tablet.** If you would like to know more please contact Steve Hasler 01799 525041 [s.hasler@btopenworld.com](mailto:s.hasler@btopenworld.com)

**PRAYER STEWARDS** We hope that St Mary's SW will be reopening at specified times for private prayer soon. This will only be possible when we have stewards present to check all health measures are adhered to. I am currently drawing up a list of people to do this. We do realise many will still be vulnerable and we would not wish to put anyone at risk. If you are interested, please email me - [gillcas@icloud.com](mailto:gillcas@icloud.com) Gill Caswell

**NEW PRAYER CHAIN COORDINATOR** Kathryn Fiddock has agreed to take over the coordination of the prayer chain from Juliette Welch. We are very grateful to them both. If anyone wants prayer for someone they know or for themselves please phone Kathryn on 01799 500844. If you are interested in being part of the prayer chain please let Kathryn know - we would love to have you with us! Sue Walker

June's edition of **PARISH NEWS** is available on the website at <http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews>

We will be presenting a **GOOD NEWS BIBLE** to every Year 6 pupil leaving St Mary's at the end of the summer term. They cost £12 each. If you would like to contribute, please put your donation in an envelope marked "School Bibles" and drop it in the letter box at St Mary's Parish Office. Cheques should be made payable to 'Saffron Walden PCC'. If you would like to give online please email [office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org) or contact the office 01799 506024 (Mon to Fri 9.30am - 12 noon). Thank you. Dawn Saxon

## MINISTRY TEAM

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