

REFLECTIONS

In the days before the big banks were operating, when there was

no Barclays in Bethlehem,
no NatWest in Nazareth,
no Santander in Samaria,
no Coutts in Capernaum

many people chose to conceal their acquired wealth by digging a hole in their land [when the neighbours were out!] and hiding their treasures there. This could well have been the case when a treasure was hidden in a field [Matthew 13,44] in the one verse parable that Jesus used to illustrate one aspect of the kingdom of God. One can imagine a prospective buyer looking at a property and then going out to the field to test the quality of the earth etc...

We can imagine the surprise and joy that this person has when he discovers that there is this hidden horde of treasure buried there. Trying to disguise his great desire to buy the property to the estate agent, he finds that he has to spend all his money in order to gain possession.

When a person discovers the true nature of God's kingdom, who Jesus is, and what Jesus has done in love for them, it is a life-changing experience. It may happen quite suddenly, or after many years of exploration, but the result is the same, to know the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour is worth more than anything else in the world. For it changes everything,

all relationships,
all aspirations,
all motivations.
The kingdom of heaven is like treasure!

John Risby

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES
SUNDAY IN CHURCH

St Marys, SW 10am Holy Communion
President: Michael Lovegrove
Ashdon 9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren
Debden 9.15am Holy Communion President: John Saxon
Wimbish 11am Holy Communion President: John Saxon

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ONLINE

SUNDAY

9.30am Holy Communion President: John Sibson
Preacher: Andy Colebrooke
9.30am Morning Service Leader: Tim Hardingham
Youtube Act of Worship Leader: Alex Jeewan

TUESDAY - Zoom 5.00pm

Evening Prayer Leader: Rufus Barnes

WEDNESDAY- Zoom 9.30am Holy Communion
Caroline Curren

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 27th	Morning Psalm 1 & Luke 22:24-30 Evening Psalm 4
Tue 28th	Morning Psalm 5 & Luke 22:31-38 Evening Psalm 9 & 2 Corinthians 11:16-end
Wed 29th	Morning Psalm 119:1-32 & Luke 22:39-46 Evening Psalm 11
Thurs 30th	Morning Psalm 15 & Luke 22:47-62 Evening Psalm 18
Fri 31st	Morning Psalm 19 & Luke 22:63-end Evening Psalm 22
Sat 1st	Morning Psalm 23 & Luke 23:1-12
August	Evening Psalm 24

The Grapevine

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

Seventh Sunday after Trinity
26th July 2020

Collect

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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 8.26-39*

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: *Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52*

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Post Communion

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.



See St Mary's church, SW, website at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org to find out more.

Please 'Like' our Facebook page so we reach more people! Click on the link on our website, or go to: www.facebook.com/saintmaryschurchsaffronwalden

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Churches Together Prayer Cycle: In July please pray for:
Saffron Walden Salvation Army Corps, Katherine Semar Schools

The family and friends of those who have died recently:
Beryl Love, Keith Start, Ruth Willett
Those who are getting married at St James, Swards
End on Saturday 1st August:
Charlie Horten-Middleton & Katie Hasler

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

'I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord'
Psalm 122.1

This verse comes from a series of psalms [120-134] of Ascent, songs that were sung by the pilgrims on their way to the Temple at Jerusalem for the feasts. For many there had been a long tortuous journey rewarded as the weary pilgrims caught first sight of the shining dome of the Temple before them. Yes they were glad, they were relieved, they were excited when they drew near to their goal.

In these past four months we have been so grateful to Alex and all those who have helped to provide online services of worship, some with a previously unheard of, Zoom! These days of isolation have been testing for everyone, and we have all been encouraged by the selfless devotion to duty that so many have carried out in order to care and to provide for us in our needs. It has also enabled us to re-examine what we might consider to be priorities in our lives, things and people that we may have taken for granted.

We have had the opportunity perhaps to look again at our own devotional life, to have time to pray, to read the Bible, to be still and know that he is God. But now as some restrictions are being eased, church buildings along with many others, are being re-opened for public use. We can now return to the House of the Lord with great joy in order to worship the Lord together, to have fellowship together [at a distance as we like to do in the Church of England!] and to share that joy of the early pilgrims to the Temple, in finding great joy in going to the House of the Lord.

With love and prayers
John Risby

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Remember, O Lord, what you have wrought in us and not what we deserve, and as you have called us to your service, make us worthy of our calling, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

NEWS

CHURCH SERVICES Some of our churches are open for services this weekend. Please see the list of services on the back page. In order to book your place at a Sunday Service at St Mary's, please email or telephone the Parish Office before noon on the previous Friday, giving your name, telephone number and postcode. You are welcome to just turn up on the day but, if the new capacity for each church has already been reached, you may not be able to join the service.

PRIVATE PRAYER St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, is open for private prayer on Wednesday and Sunday 12-4. All Saints, Ashdon is open for private prayer on Wednesday and Sunday between 11am and 6.00pm.

St James, Swards End will be open for private prayer on **Sunday 26th July** 2.30-4pm.

EMAIL BULLETINS are issued each week 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 if you would like to be added to the distribution list.

WORSHIP ONLINE will continue as shown on the back page. 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 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

We are delighted that our daughter **KATIE WILL BE MARRIED TO CHARLIE HORTEN-MIDDLETON** by the Ven Jenny Tomlinson on **Saturday 1st August** at 2pm at St James, Swards End. We have valued the love and support of our church family over recent months. Whilst we are unable to invite you to the wedding you will be very welcome to cheer the happy couple when they emerge from the church after a brief ceremony. *Steve and Judith*

CHRISTINE WOOD The family of the late Christine Wood would like to express their sincere thanks to all those members of the St Mary's congregation who sent cards and messages of condolence following Christine's recent death.

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

THANK YOU to those who have given donations towards the Rainbow Bibles to be given by St Mary's Church to all Year 6 pupils at St Mary's school. It's not too late to contribute if you wish to make a donation (bibles £12 each). Cheques payable to "St Mary's Saffron Walden PCC" (please write on the back of the cheque 'school bibles'). Please put through the Parish Office letterbox or post to: St Mary's Parish Office, Church Path, Saffron Walden CB10 1JP. Thank you. *Dawn Saxon*

MINISTRY TEAM

Parish Administrator: Dawn Saxon	01799 506024
Email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org	
Pastoral Assistant: Judith Hasler	01799 525041
Email: judithhasler@btopenworld.com	
Revd Paula Griffiths	01799 599141
Revd Tim Hardingham	01799 542874
Revd Alex Jeewan	01799 531153
Revd John Saxon	01799 541619
Revd Dr Caroline Currer	01799 584839