

REFLECTIONS

Many years ago I had a job which involved working in schools when I had to interview parents. The parent I dreaded was the "Pushy" mother. The Canaanite woman our Lord encountered in today's Gospel was persistent if not "pushy". It wasn't that she was a woman that was the problem it was that this anonymous woman was a Syrophenician and wasn't one of them. And she was persistent. "Do something about this woman - she is driving us mad" pleaded the disciples.

I hope that you can admire her persistence. She was like the woman with the 12 year history of Haemorrhaging who pushed through the crowd to touch the hem of Jesus' robes, believing that she would be healed if she did so. This woman does much the same thing. She spurs with Jesus until he can no longer ignore her desire that her daughter be healed whatever demon has gripped her. The woman recognised Jesus' connectedness to the glory of God in heaven and it resonated with her. With so strong a faith, it was all she could do but to come to Jesus for the sake of her daughter's wellbeing. She understood that through Jesus her daughter could be healed and whole again

There are certain things about this woman we must note. First and foremost she had love - she made the misery of her child her own. Second this woman had faith that grew in contact with Jesus. Jesus, as it were compelled her to look at him and in him she saw something that was not expressible in earthly terms but was nothing less than divine. We can see this woman's faith growing as she is confronted by Christ. It was a faith which worshipped. She began by following and ended on her knees. She began with a request; she ended with a prayer. This woman had the gift of cheerfulness. She was in the midst of trouble yet she could smile.

This woman brought to Christ a gallant and audacious love, a faith which grew until it worshipped at the feet of the divine, an indomitable persistence, springing from an unconquerable hope, a cheerfulness which would not be dismayed. That is an approach which cannot help finding an answer to its prayers.

Michael Lovegrove

**THIS WEEK'S SERVICES
SUNDAY IN CHURCH**

St Marys, SW 10.00am Family Service (outside on lawn West Door; if raining indoors) Leader: Hilary Walker
Wimbish 9.15am Holy Communion President: John Saxon

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ONLINE**SUNDAY**

9.30am Holy Communion President: Paula Griffiths
Preacher: Andy Colebrooke
Zoom 11.00am Leader: Service of the Word John Saxon

TUESDAY - Zoom 5.00pm

Evening Prayer Leader: Mike Felgate

WEDNESDAY - Zoom 9.30am Holy Communion

Alex Jeewan Michael Lovegrove

**NEXT SUNDAY 23rd August
SERVICES IN CHURCH**

St Marys, 10am Holy Communion
SW President: John Sibson Preacher: Robin King
Little Walden 11.15am Holy Communion
President: Michael Lovegrove
Hadstock 9.30am Holy Communion President: Paula Griffiths
Ashdon 9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren
Debden 9.15am Holy Communion President: John Saxon

The Grapevine

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

**Tenth Sunday after Trinity
16th August 2020**

Collect

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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 11.1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Gospel: Matthew 15.21-28

Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Post Communion

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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 August please pray for:
Saffron Walden Baptist Church, R A Butler Schools
The family and friends of those who have died recently:
Elizabeth Jones, Robert (Bob) Thorn, Susan Smith
Those who are unwell:
Pamela Bray

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

One of the changes that have been necessary in our "Zoom" services is the way we share the peace. It is usually by means of "an on screen" wave or smile. For some this lack of actual contact is a cause for sadness, for others I am told, it's a relief.

There are references to the "Holy Kiss" in several Pauline letters. The exhortation to share the kiss without any further explanation indicates that this was widely practised among first century Christians. It is a sign of love and unity and remained part of the liturgy in the East but was lost in the West until revived in modern liturgies. So it is not some new-fangled idea, Indeed Thomas Cranmer envisaged it in the sixteenth century when he intended communicants to "draw near" not just spiritually but quite literally.

The Eucharist is a celebration and in our day has included a greater sense of fellowship. However, fellowship is often seen as something that happens after the service (over coffee for example) but fellowship proper is in the service, around the table and what happens after is a natural extension of it. That is why it is so good that our clergy "go round the screen" after a Zoom service to extend that fellowship.

In some churches there is an undue emphasis on the Peace and inappropriate bonhomie at that point in the service. But the restoration of both the words and gesture of the peace is one of the great gains of liturgical renewal and although some people do not like it, it is now rightly established as an integral part of the liturgy.

The idea of the church, including its local expression, as a "sacred and wonderful mystery", bringing to the kiss of peace a reverence and awe that is quite different from back slapping bonhomie, needs to be understood if this attractive and powerful symbol is to retain its effectiveness.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
Michael Lovegrove

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for all the benefits you have won for us, for all the pains and insults that you have borne for us. Most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen

After Richard of Chichester (1253)

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 17th	Morning Psalm 71 & Acts 3:11-end Evening Psalm 72
Tue 18th	Morning Psalm 73 & Acts 4:1-12 Evening Psalm 74 & Mark 3:7-19a
Wed 19th	Morning Psalm 77 & Acts 4:13-31 Evening Psalm 119:81-104
Thurs 20th	Morning Psalm 78:1-39 & Acts 4:32-5.11 Evening Psalm 78:40-end
Fri 21st	Morning Psalm 55 & Acts 5:12-26 Evening Psalm 69
Sat 22nd	Morning Psalm 76 & Acts 5:27-end Evening Psalm 84

NEWS

Please note it is **NOW COMPULSORY TO WEAR A MASK** for services in church (if you have an exemption please let a Warden know when entering church). This is government and Church of England instructions. *Gill Caswell*

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.

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 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 John Saxon on 541619
debdenwimbishcurate@gmail.com

DAVID TOMLINSON WAS LICENSED AS THE VICAR of St Paul's Church Jewellery Quarter in central Birmingham on Monday 10th August. Please pray for David as he starts his new role. <https://www.stpaulsjq.church>

DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE (DEC): Coronavirus appeal for refugees in Yemen, Syria and South Sudan. In normal circumstances St Mary's SW would have supported this DEC appeal with special collections at services for 3 weeks. Contributions may be made direct to the DEC online, at banks or by post (see details in the press and on TV). Thank you. *Denis & Gill*

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