

REFLECTIONS

So in all we read today we are thinking about our harvests, to all intents and purposes the end of the growing year when our world will turn into rich autumnal colours before the sleep of winter.

The English language is so rich. The two words 'Sow' and 'Sew' sound the same, are different, and yet both are to do with being creative. By the same token I was given a prayer years ago with the words 'Spin carefully, spin prayerfully. Leave the thread with God'.

Harvest is to do with growing, creative things, and the hopes that what is planted will actually grow and be useful. So, being who we are we only have to look at the readings today from the Letter to the Corinthians, one of Paul's favourite church communities, and Luke's gospel which not only records our Lord's ministry but goes on through the Acts of the Apostles to record the spread of the Gospel, to understand how important was the imagery of sowing and growing for all who were living at that time surrounded as they were by all the uncertainties and dangers of first century life.

Times don't really change much do they?

Chris Bishop

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES SUNDAY IN CHURCH

St Marys 10am Harvest Festival Leader: Matt Williamson
Saffron Walden Talk: Tracey Nicholls

Ashdon 9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren

Wimbish 9.15am Holy Communion President: Hilary Davey
Preacher: Peter Gray

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ON ZOOM

SUNDAY

9.30am Holy Communion President: Paula Griffiths

11.00am Holy Communion President: Hilary Davey
Preacher: Peter Gray

TUESDAY

5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: Rufus Barnes

WEDNESDAY

9.30am Holy Communion Alex Jeewan

NEXT SUNDAY 27th September 2020 SERVICES IN CHURCH

St Marys 10am Holy Communion President: John Sibson
Saffron Walden

Sewards End 9.30am Morning Praise Leader: Alan Curren

Little Walden 11.15am Holy Communion President: Michael
Lovegrove

Hadstock 9.30am Holy Communion President: Paula Griffiths

Ashdon 9.30am Harvest Festival Leader: Caroline Curren

Debden 9.15am Holy Communion President: Alex Jeewan
Preacher: Brian Kerrison

The Grapevine

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

Harvest Festival

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
20th September 2020

Collect

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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: 2 Corinthians 9.6-15

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Gospel: Luke 12.16-30

Jesus told the people a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.' He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

Post Communion

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; 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 September please pray for: **Society of Friends, Saffron Walden, Chrishall School**
The family and friends of those who have died recently:

Christine Dixon

Those whose wedding banns are being called at St Mary's, Saffron Walden: **Samuel Maguire** and **Laura Johnson**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Once again we are at Harvest Festival time. I was born and brought up in the West Country. My early years were spent on Salisbury Plain and I spent a lot of time with a shepherd on those Downs. We had a small complex of farm buildings but we had no electricity and we had to pump our own water... what a wonderful taste on a hot day! In that agricultural world as in so many other work areas, you were surrounded by basic manual tools that did so many necessary jobs.

When you think of it, putting aside the sophistication and complexities of our techi' world our basic food needs come down to putting 'stuff' into the ground, feeding it properly and hoping there is enough sun and rain to make sure it grows into what we need for nourishment. I know that is a simplistic précis of what agriculture is all about, but it is a fact of life. This time of the year is the best time to reflect on who we are, where we are, what we are doing and where we are going, for what we are doing is standing on what matters and is so easily taken for granted, the earth.

We only have to open the pages of the Gospels to breathe in the air of a similar world and culture, a basic agricultural world with sowers and harvests and fishermen, where the production of bread was a daily necessity. So all I am really saying is that this is a good time to take stock of our lives in the context of our faith. This period of history we are all living through may be going to, or is going to change all sorts of things, from working practices to personal life styles and priorities for many people. So for us, how has our faith been challenged or enriched, how much has that 'mustard seed' grown, and how often do we crowd out seeds with all the baggage of modern life, some of which, upon reflection, we could really call weeds?

With love and prayers
Chris Bishop

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Lord, bless our farmers and all who work on the land; strengthen them when they are discouraged, and help us all to work together as good stewards of this earth, its crops and its creatures, for your love's sake. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 21st	Morning Psalm 49 & 2 Timothy 3:14-end Evening Psalm 119:33-40, 89-96
Tue 22nd	Morning Psalm 36 & Acts 16:25-end Evening Psalm 33 & Mark 11:12-26
Wed 23rd	Morning Psalm 34 & Acts 17:1-15 Evening Psalm 119:33-56
Thurs 24th	Morning Psalm 37 & Acts 17:16-end Evening Psalm 40
Fri 25th	Morning Psalm 31 & Acts 18:1-21 Evening Psalm 35
Sat 26th	Morning Psalm 42 & Acts 18:22-19.7 Evening Psalm 46

NEWS

SERVICES IN CHURCH Details are listed on the back page. **It is now compulsory to wear a mask** unless you have an exemption.

Advance booking is advised to attend St Mary's, SW as services are now close to capacity and we cannot guarantee that you will be able to enter the church if you haven't booked. Please book your place online using the link on the weekly bulletin or the website – alternatively, email or telephone the Parish Office before noon on the previous Friday, giving your name, telephone number and postcode. No booking is required for the village churches but, if the service has reached capacity, you may not be able to enter.

PRIVATE PRAYER St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, is open on Wednesdays and Sundays between 2pm and 4pm. *Gill Caswell* All Saints, Ashdon is open on Wednesday and Sunday between 11am and 6.00pm.

ONLINE SERVICES are listed on the back page. Full joining details are available on the weekly email bulletin and on the website. Please email Dawn if you would like to be added to the bulletin distribution list.

LIVE WORSHIP by phone - you don't need a computer or tablet to join our services from home. If you would like to know more please contact Judith Hasler on 525041 or John Saxon on 541619.

KNOWING CHRIST: CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND THE EUCHARIST is the title of my second book, and expresses my deepest convictions about life, love and faith. I was looking forward to seeing many of you again at a local event but that is precluded in these strange times. The book may be ordered though at Harts Books, Saffron Walden, through Amazon or directly from the publisher at www.sacristy.co.uk
The details for ordering it: *Knowing Christ: Christian Discipleship and the Eucharist* by David R. Tomlinson, Sacristy Press, 2020, priced £12.99, ISBN 978-1-78959-122-4. Let me know what you think! With love, David

TRUST130 SCHEME Ecclesiastical Insurance, our church insurers, will donate £130 to St Mary's for each new home insurance policy taken out with them. They can be contacted on 03457 773322 or household@ecclesiastical.com Denis

HOMEMADE JAM I have been making jam as usual over the last few weeks - Bullace (Wild Plum), Victoria Plum (not set very well but tasty) and Blackberry for sale at £2 a pot for Church funds. Anyone who would like a pot or two, please contact me on 521356 to arrange collection from Little Walden Road or delivery to you at home. Many thanks.
Lesley Green

PLEASE NOTE All items for the **GRAPEVINE** should be sent to secretary.swrectory@ntlworld.com by no later than 9am on Wednesdays. Thank you.

MINISTRY TEAM

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