

REFLECTIONS

The beautifully poetic words that open Chapter 5 of Matthew's gospel have come to be known as the Beatitudes or beautiful attitudes. They form a kind of overture to Jesus' great Sermon on the Mount. 'Blessed' is our translators' rendering of the Greek word makarios, which perhaps doesn't have a straightforward English equivalent. Other translations prefer 'happy', 'fortunate', or even 'well off' – meaning someone to be envied or congratulated because they have the spiritual qualities and attitudes of a true disciple. The second half of each phrase then describes the rewards of such discipleship. The danger with this list is that we think we should try harder to become more humble, more meek, and so on. But, like so many things in the spiritual life, they cannot be attained by frontal attack, only via the ancient pathways of worship, prayer, solitude, service and so on. For it is there that God's Spirit can work his transformative will upon us: it's all by grace not effort.

Going deeper...

Some of these qualities are aspects of God's own character: righteousness; mercy; purity; and peace. The others are qualities God favours, because they recognise our need of his help: humility; sorrow for the world; and meekness. The final verse makes clear the cost of such discipleship. However, the rewards are out of this world! They are indeed beyond our imagination, a thought complemented in our reading from St John's first epistle: 'what we will be has not yet been revealed ...'

I wonder... Can I use each beatitude in my prayers as a way to worship God, the only one to truly have these beautiful attitudes?

Andy Colebrooke

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

St Marys, Saffron Walden	
8.00am Holy Communion 1662	President: Andy Colebrooke
12 noon Baptism	Officiant: Andy Colebrooke
6.30pm H2H Youth Led Service	Leader: Matt Williamson
Hadstock 9.30am Family Service	Leader: Paula Griffiths
4th November 6.00pm All Souls Service	Leader: Paula Griffiths
Ashdon 9.30am Patronal Service	Leader: Caroline Curren
2.00pm All Souls Service	Leader: Caroline Curren
Debden 3.00pm All Souls Service	Leader: John Saxon
Wimbish 9.15am Sunday Worship	Leader: John Saxon

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ON ZOOM
SUNDAY

11.00am Holy Communion	President: John Saxon
4.00pm Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving (streamed on YouTube)	Leader: Judith Hasler

TUESDAY

5.00pm Evening Prayer	Leader: Joe Hordern
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WEDNESDAY

9.30am Holy Communion	Caroline Curren
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**NEXT SUNDAY 8th November 2020
SERVICES IN CHURCH**

St Marys, Saffron Walden	
10.30am Remembrance Service	Leader: Andy Colebrooke
4.00pm Music/Readings/Compline	Leader: Marisa Baltrock
Sewards End 3pm Remembrance Service	Leader: Chris Bishop
Sat 7th November Little Walden 10.45am Remembrance Service	Leader: Michael Lovegrove
Hadstock 10.45am Remembrance Service	Leader: Paula Griffiths
Ashdon 9.30am Holy Communion	President: Caroline Curren
Wimbish 10.50am Remembrance Service	Leader: John Saxon

The Grapevine

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

All Saints and All Souls
1st November 2020

Collect

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

First Reading: 1 John 3.1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Gospel: Matthew 5.1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Post Communion

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; 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 November please pray for: **All Saints, Ashdon, Wimbish and Debden Schools**
Those who are being baptised today at St Mary's SW:
Raffael Oscar Dennis Head, Darcy Montgomery Seren Head
The family and friends of those who have died recently:
Revd. Tim Hardingham As a church and as a team we are heartbroken at the news of Tim's death. He was a wonderful priest, teacher, father, friend and colleague. Tim was a true gentleman or gentle man, who was wise beyond words. He was often quietly spoken but when he spoke you knew you had to listen, because wisdom was on the way. He will be missed greatly. *Alex*

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

All Saints' Day or All Hallows' Day (1st November) is set aside for us to remember all the saints and martyrs, known and unknown, throughout Christian history. I like to use it not so much to remember the great thinkers and martyrs of the faith – after all, they have their own special days throughout the year, but rather to remember those ordinary men and women who have lived quiet, godly, caring lives, that enriched the lives of others but never made the headlines. George Eliot closes her novel *Middlemarch* with these words about the central character Dorothea Brooke, a woman with the kindest temperament: 'The effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive, for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts, and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs.'

There was once a mother who took her young daughter to one of the great cathedrals of our land. The child was captivated not by the architecture or the grand tombs but by the colourful patterns of light cast on the cathedral floor as the sunlight streaming through the stain-glass windows. Looking up at the figures in glass she asked her mother who they were. Her mother replied 'Oh, they are saints dear, but don't ask who they are.' That night as the little girl was being tucked up in bed she said to her mother 'I think I know who the saints are – they are the ones who let the light in.'

I like to use this day to remember all those, both living and deceased, whose ordinary but thoughtful, kind lives have helped me on my journey through life; all those who, in their own way, have shone with the love of God and have let the light in, for me to see. I give thanks for them today.

With love and prayers,
Andy Colebrooke

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Teach us, Good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not count the cost; to fight and not heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ignatius Loyola

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 2nd	Morning Psalm 2 & Revelation 1 Evening Psalm 92
Tue 3rd	Morning Psalm 5:147.1-12 & Revelation 2:1-11 Evening Psalm 100 & Matthew 2:1-15
Wed 4th	Morning Psalm 9:147.13-end & Revelation 2:12-end Evening Psalm 112
Thurs 5th	Morning Psalm 15 & Revelation 3:1-13 Evening Psalm 118
Fri 6th	Morning Psalm 16 & Revelation 3:14-end Evening Psalm 143
Sat 7th	Morning Psalm 18:31-end & Revelation 4 Evening Psalm 145

NEWS

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING streamed on YouTube from St Mary's on **Sunday 1st November** at 4pm. Instead of coming to church, take part by clicking on the link on St Mary's website.
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICES at St Mary's on 8th November. There will be no Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial this year and no parade down the High Street but we are holding two services in church. **10.30am Remembrance Day Service** including the Act of Remembrance. It will be essential to book your seats in church in the usual manner. It will also be livestreamed on YouTube and Zoom. **4.00pm Music and Readings for Remembrance Sunday followed by Compline** – book seats in church or watch on YouTube.

Advance booking is advised to attend St Mary's, SW
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 and telephone number. 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 4.30pm. St Botolph's, Hadstock is open on Wednesdays between 1pm and 3pm.

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.

ANNUAL MEETINGS 2020 At the first Annual Meetings at St Mary's to be held on Zoom on Sunday 25th October, Denis Tindley and Gill Caswell were elected as churchwardens and Bill Rose, Pamela Jenner and Jan Siewertsen were elected as Assistant Churchwardens. Judith Hasler and Clifford Want were elected to the Deanery Synod for a three-year term. David Birchall, Steve Hasler, Rufus Barnes, Robin O'Neill, Matt Williamson and Lisa Brook were elected to the PCC also for a three-year term. *Lisa Brook, PCC Secretary*

Caroline Currer has offered to run an **ADVENT STUDY COURSE/DISCUSSION GROUP** on zoom for anyone in the team who would be interested. This would be for one hour a week over a four week period. To help planning, please could you contact Caroline (preferably by e-mail at c.currer@btinternet.com by 10th November) if you would be interested in taking part, and including any constraints you may have in relation to timing. Once we have some idea of potential numbers, she will be in touch with details of the topic and proposed date or dates.

St Mary's has just been awarded the **ECO CHURCH BRONZE AWARD!** Work has continued throughout the year cultivating wildflowers in the churchyard and representing the church on various environmental organisations and working parties. Our website pages were also given a special mention by the adjudicators. If you haven't visited them recently, please do! *Edward Gildea*

NOVEMBER'S PARISH NEWS is available on the website at <http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews>

MINISTRY TEAM

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Revd John Saxon	01799 541619
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