

REFLECTIONS

The Gospel today shows us three things about Peter.
 First - He often acted on impulse, without thinking what he was doing - without fully facing the situation and without counting the cost. Peter's trouble was that, he was ruled by his heart, and although he sometimes failed, his heart was always in the right place and the instinct of his heart was always one of love.
 Second - Because Peter acted on impulse he often failed and came to grief. Jesus always tried to make people see how difficult it was to follow him before they set out on the Christian way. A great deal of Christian failure is due to acting without first counting the cost.

Third - Peter never totally failed, because in his moment of failure he turned to Jesus. The wonderful thing about Peter is that every time he fell, he got up again; and even his failures brought him closer to Jesus. It is true that, a saint is not a person who never falls; a saint is a person who gets up and goes on again every time he falls. Peter's failures only made him love Jesus all the more and discover wherever Jesus is the wildest storm will always become a 'calm'.

Bishop Francis had often seen a farm servant, near where he lived, going across the farmyard to draw water from the well; before she lifted the full bucket, the girl always put a piece of wood into it. One day he went up to the girl and asked her, "Why do you do that?" She looked surprised and answered, as if it were a matter of course, "Why? It keeps the water from spilling, keeps it steady!" Writing to a friend later the bishop told this story and then added: "So when your heart is distressed and agitated, put the Cross into the centre of your heart, to keep it steady!" (99)

All of us experience times of storm and stress and need to turn to Jesus, acknowledging his presence with us and the love which flows from his Cross, so that we may have his peace, his serenity and his calm.

John Sibson

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

St Marys, 10am Holy Communion
 SW President: Andy Colebrooke
 Little Walden 11.15am Family Service Leader: Tracey Nicholls
 Hadstock 9.30am Holy Communion President: Paula Griffiths
 Debden 9.15am Service of the Word Leader: John Saxon

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ONLINE**SUNDAY**

Youtube Act of Worship Leader: Chris Bishop
 Zoom 11.00am Holy Communion John Saxon
 No 9.30am Zoom - please join 11.00am Zoom

TUESDAY - Zoom 5.00pm

Evening Prayer Leader: John Saxon

WEDNESDAY- Zoom 9.30am Holy Communion
 Chris Bishop Andy Colebrooke

**NEXT SUNDAY 16th August
SERVICES IN CHURCH**

St Marys, SW 10am Family Service (outside on lawn West Door). If wet indoors. Leader: Hilary Walker
 Wimbish 9.15am Holy Communion President: John Saxon

The Grapevine

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

**Ninth Sunday after Trinity
 9th August 2020**

Collect

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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 10.5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Gospel: Matthew 14.22-33

Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Post Communion

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of 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:
Daphne Curtis
Those who are unwell:
Pamela Bray

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

I wonder if you like me enjoy doing puzzles? Personally I enjoy most the 'Jigsaw' variety. Putting the pieces in and seeing the picture develop is very rewarding as you can begin to understand what it will be like when finished.

Sometimes working one piece at a time is necessary in order to understand what the artist is trying to convey. The same can apply to trying to understand a passage from scripture. In order to be able to understand the full picture it is often necessary to think about a verse at a time. Some of Paul's letters are like that and time is necessary.

Being still and quiet without rushing can help us understand what is being said. We need to recognise that just saying the words is not enough, we need to really believe them in our hearts and practice them in our lives. When we believe and practice in our lives that 'Jesus was raised from the dead' we will be saved.

The same fact applies no matter which religious group we may belong to because, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved'.

Having got to this position it is then necessary to go out and let others know either by speaking the words or just putting them into practice in our daily lives. As Paul finishes 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'.

With love and prayers
John Sibson

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.
Amen.

St Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 10th	Morning Psalm 44 & Acts 1:1-14 Evening Psalm 47
Tue 11th	Morning Psalm 48 & Acts 1:15-end Evening Psalm 50 & Mark 1:14-20
Wed 12th	Morning Psalm 119:57-80 & Acts 2:1-21 Evening Psalm 59
Thurs 13th	Morning Psalm 57 & Acts 2:22-36 Evening Psalm 62
Fri 14th	Morning Psalm 51 & Acts 2:37-end Evening Psalm 38
Sat 15th	Morning Psalm 98 & Luke 11:27-28 Evening Psalm 132

EVENTS

DAVID TOMLINSON WILL BE LICENSED AS THE VICAR of St Paul's Church Jewellery Quarter in central Birmingham on Monday 10th August. The service will take place on Zoom; the participants are limited to only the essential people. Please pray for David as he starts his new role.
<https://www.stpaulsjq.church>

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 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 John Saxon on 541619
debdenwimbishcurate@gmail.com

FAMILY SERVICE - Sunday 16th August 10am Join us for a fun filled Family Service outside St Mary's churchyard, Saffron Walden, as we explore the story of the feeding of the 5000. Bring a picnic blanket and some snacks. To help with preparation please sign up by 14th August at the very latest. If wet weather we will meet in the church. All welcome.

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*

PLAINSONG WORKSHOP & SERVICE OF COMPLINE
Our Director of Music, Oli King, is leading a Plainsong workshop via Zoom on **Friday 14th August**, from 7.30 - 8.30pm. It will be followed by a zoom service of Compline at 8.30pm, led by Tim Hardingham and Marisa Baltrock to which all are invited. Anyone wishing to join the workshop as an observer needs to register by Saturday 8th August. People just wishing to join the service of Compline can obtain the zoom link from music@stmaryssaffronwalden.org by Wednesday 12th August. *Bron Ferland*

PARISH NEWS August/September edition now available on St Mary's website at <http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews>

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