

REFLECTIONS

As in so many passages in the Gospels and Epistles, there is an underlying theme of threat. In today's Gospel, we have such words as 'entrap', 'malice' and 'putting to the test'. This was the usual picture of opposition to Jesus and his message. Likewise, in the Epistle, when Paul says of the Thessalonians, 'in spite of persecution you received the word with joy', that theme continues.

When, in church, we hear lots of words associated with our faith and worship. It would be an interesting exercise to write down an alphabetical list of the first such words that come to your mind, for example: A = atonement, B = beatitudes, C = covenant and so forth. When you have done the exercise it may be good to go back to certain words to refresh your memories of their meaning, back then, and for us now!

Although the word is not used in our readings today, when you got to the letter 'p' you might have put down Parousia for, in essence, it is part of Paul's concluding words today. Its definition is the 'arrival or future return of Jesus', something to give the persecuted faithful hope.

It is always good to have a Bible commentary handy when doing such an exercise. With that in mind, William Neil, in his great little one volume commentary on the whole of the Bible, says about this word 'parousia' that the Thessalonian church found this concept rather puzzling. As he says, the original meaning of the word meant 'presence'. 'The church believed that the King had come, that he was already present with his people through the Holy Spirit, but one day sooner or later the King must be acknowledged by the whole world....in this sense the expectation of St Paul and of the Thessalonians is still the faith of the twenty first century Church'.

With my prayers in these difficult and thought provoking times,
Chris Bishop

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES SUNDAY IN CHURCH

St Marys, Saffron Walden
10.00am Family Service Leader: Tracey Nicholls

Hadstock 3.00pm Millennium Service Leader: Paula Griffiths

Ashdon 9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren

Wimbish 9.15am Holy Communion President: John Saxon

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ON ZOOM

SUNDAY
11.00am Sunday Worship Leader: John Saxon

TUESDAY
5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: Alan Curren

WEDNESDAY
9.30am Holy Communion Alex Jeewan

NEXT SUNDAY 25th October 2020 SERVICES IN CHURCH

St Marys, Saffron Walden
10.00am Holy Communion President: John Saxon

Sewards End 9.30am Holy Communion President: Chris Bishop

Lt Walden 11.15am Holy Communion President: Michael Lovegrove

Ashdon 9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren

Debden 9.15am Holy Communion President: Robin King

The Grapevine

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

Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity 18th October 2020

Collect

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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: 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Gospel: Matthew 22.15-22

When the chief priests and Pharisees had heard the parables, they realized that Jesus was speaking about them. Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Post Communion

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service 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 October please pray for:
Ashdon Baptist Church, Ashdon Primary School
Those who are getting married at Hadstock on 24th October:
Edward Sumption & Kate Symes-Thompson

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

I grew up in a village where we had a whistling postman. Whoever we are, generally speaking, we enjoy receiving post, especially letters and parcels, and I am sad these days that the postman or postwoman's work now seems to be maintained by all the advertising, often junk mail they have to deliver. Gone, to all intents, are the days of more regular deliveries and the way of life of communication through letter writing. Those were the days when letters were kept, especially when love letters were ribbon wrapped and treasured. Now so much of communication has gone electronic!

As far as a church is concerned, a good part of our worship is to do with letters written a long time ago. Thankfully, these letters were treasured and kept so safe that we can still read them today - the letters, the Epistles, of St Paul and other missionary colleagues.

The things they so often recorded were events and problems very much of their own time and culture and yet, over and over again, the content of the letters can still apply to our lives now; that is why a portion is still read every Sunday.

So, this week, to the church in Saffron Walden is read a passage from the first letter Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica.

It is recognised that this is not one of Paul's best letters but, even so, it deals with concerns of a young church, eager to have questions answered and so Paul's endeavour is to address their concerns and point them in the right direction.

How do we view our churchgoing as part of our way of life and where do we get help with decisions we take and the plans we make as the weeks, months and years roll by?

The Letters Paul wrote and in particular this letter is one with an element of urgency about it, for the church was a young church full of expectation for the second coming of Jesus (parousia) and Paul was hoping to help them at a distance. They may have read his letter over and over again as they moved forward on their faith journey and so we still have that letter to read today. You could say that, with hope, it comes 'whistling down the years' to give us encouragement, just as it also the case when we move from hearing Epistle words to Gospel words, those 'good news' words that inspired the Epistles to be written.

With love and prayers
Chris Bishop

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Lord God, make us your rainbow people, glorying in our God-given variety, passionate for peace, trusting in your grace; in the name of Jesus Christ, the hope of the world.

(Patterns and Prayers for Christian Worship)

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 19th	Morning Psalm 145 & Luke 1:1-4 Evening Psalm 103
Tue 20th	Morning Psalm 106 & Philippians 1:12-end Evening Psalm 107 & John 13:12-20
Wed 21st	Morning Psalm 111 & Philippians 2:1-13 Evening Psalm 119:129-152
Thurs 22nd	Morning Psalm 115 & Philippians 2:14-end Evening Psalm 116
Fri 23rd	Morning Psalm 139 & Philippians 3:1-4.1 Evening Psalm 130
Sat 24th	Morning Psalm 121 & Philippians 4:2-end Evening Psalm 118

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
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 6.00pm. 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.

ST MARY'S ANNUAL MEETINGS 25TH OCTOBER at 12 noon This year's Annual Meetings will be held on Zoom using the same joining details as for our normal Sunday Zoom service. Details are available on the weekly bulletin or for information about joining by telephone, please contact the Parish Office. The Agenda and papers for the meeting are available on St Mary's website at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/pcc *Lisa Brook*

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. If you would like the name of a loved one read out during the service, please contact the Parish Office by 26th October.

ONLINE CHORAL EVENSONG led by Marisa Baltrock and featuring the church choir is available on the website under Latest News. With special thanks to Oli King and to Peter DeVile for editing.

SHOEBOX APPEAL We want boys and girls around the world to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them during this time of fear and uncertainty. Unfortunately, due to restricted access at St Mary's at the present time we are not able to operate our usual Shoebox Appeal through Operation Christmas Child. However, you can still bring joy to children by donating shoeboxes online by selecting a range of gifts, which will be packed and sent for you. Visit shoebonline.org.uk by 21st November. If you have any queries please contact Mike and Judith Felgate on 524747.

The names on the **REVISED ELECTORAL ROLL** are displayed in St Mary's, St John's and St James' in preparation for the APCM and is also available for inspection on application to the Electoral Roll Officer, Clifford Want by email to electoralroll@stmaryssaffronwalden.org or to the Parish Office by telephone, if you need to check your entry on the roll.

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