

REFLECTIONS

One of my favourite Collects today! A timely reminder to all of us of the gift and the value of God's Word in these testing times. For our loving Father delights to speak to us through the Holy Scriptures penned by about forty writers but all inspired and led by the Holy Spirit of God. And it is the same Holy Spirit who promises to 'help us to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them.'

I sometimes ask myself how far do I go in this process? Yes I hear them, yes I read them, but to get value from these words, do I mark or note carefully what is being said, do I give myself time to learn the meaning of these words, and then do I really inwardly digest them?

The parable of the sower continues to speak to us doesn't it? How grateful we are that the seed is sown as we hear or read God's Word, but the challenge then is what is our response? It can be so easy to allow these words to go in one ear and out of the other, so to speak. Half an hour after a service or a time reading the Bible, how much have we taken in? And who among us is not guilty of allowing the 'cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches' to choke the Word. But let's be positive, let us pray this prayer every day this week and determine to find a space even for a few unhurried minutes to hear or read the Bible, to jot down the main point, and then to seek to find a way to put what we have learned into practice. How grateful we are that there are many aids these days to help us read the Bible every day [Bible Reading Fellowship, Scripture Union etc..] and we could do worse than take the two readings on the Grapevine and read and re read them alternatively during the coming week, jotting down what strikes us. It could give us half a dozen things to think about and to try to apply to our daily lives. May God's word be a real source of comfort and encouragement to us in this coming week.

John Risby

**THIS WEEK'S SERVICES
SUNDAY 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

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ON ZOOM

TUESDAY
5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: Mike Felgate

WEDNESDAY
9.30am Holy Communion Caroline Curren

**NEXT SUNDAY 1st November 2020
SERVICES IN CHURCH**

St Marys, Saffron Walden
8.00am Holy Communion 1662 President: 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

The Grapevine

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

Last Sunday after Trinity
25th October 2020

Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Gospel: Matthew 22.34-46

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Post Communion

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.



See St Mary's Church, SW, website at
www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org to find out more.

Please 'Like' our Facebook page so we reach more

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Churches Together Prayer Cycle: In October please pray for:
Ashdon Baptist Church, Ashdon Primary School

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

As we approach the coming of winter, one senses that this could be quite a testing one for all of us. There is the prospect of a further lockdown and restriction of movement, this affects all of us in one way or another. I used to be a vicar in Islington where there are several high rise blocks of flats and one dreads to think what it must be like for parents with young children several floors up. We are, by comparison, fortunate to live in a part of the country where it is relatively easy to keep social distance and enjoy some freedom of movement. However, I am conscious that there are a number of people in our parishes who live alone, and who find the long hours of winter something rather daunting. The Government and political leaders are rightly concerned about the financial implications of lockdown, how we need to continue to pray that they may seek and find wisdom to seek the welfare of all people. It has been so moving to see how many have responded in our communities to provide services for the vulnerable in so many ways. I have been impressed by those who try to keep their eyes and ears open for those around them who are lonely, and who keep in touch on the telephone, or when the weather permits with a visit in a garden. Perhaps one of the greatest gifts we can offer is time for each other. Families and friends who have access to Zoom are grateful that this facility is available these days. Even a letter or a card can help to alleviate loneliness and a sense of isolation. I know someone who keeps a monthly prayer calendar with names of friends, family and others for they are concerned. And when they pray they consider whether it would be appropriate to make contact. At the end of our reading from 1 Thessalonians today, St Paul says, 'so deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God, but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.' These challenging days provide us with opportunities to continue to care and share with those who are very dear to us. It's not in the Bible but I've heard it somewhere....'every little helps' !!

With love and prayers,
John Risby

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Heavenly Father, give us the faith to receive your Word, the understanding to know what it means, and the courage to put it into practice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 26th	Morning Psalm 126 & 1 Timothy 1:1-17 Evening Psalm 127
Tue 27th	Morning Psalm 132 & 1 Timothy 1:18-end of 2 Evening Psalm 135 & John 15:12-17
Wed 28th	Morning Psalm 116 & Luke 6:12-16 Evening Psalm 119:1-16
Thurs 29th	Morning Psalm 143 & 1 Timothy:4 Evening Psalm 138
Fri 30th	Morning Psalm 144 & 1 Timothy 5:1-16 Evening Psalm 145
Sat 31st	Morning Psalm 147 & 1 Timothy 5:17-end Evening Psalm 1

NEWS

ST MARY'S ANNUAL MEETINGS TODAY 25TH OCTOBER at 12 noon. Join by Zoom or telephone using the same joining details as for our normal Sunday Zoom service. The Agenda and papers 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.

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 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 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*

SHOEBOX APPEAL Unfortunately, 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 Curren	01799 584839