

REFLECTIONS

'There is so much to pray about, I don't know where to begin!'

There may be times when we all feel like that! Just imagine for a moment how the apostle Paul must have felt as he found time to pray for all those churches [more than our Rector!] that he felt responsible for...in today's reading, he tells the church in Ephesus that he

'does not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers..'

And he gives thanks in particular for **'their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ'** and for **'their love toward all the saints.'**

Paul probably wrote these words when he was in prison in Rome about 60AD, but as he thought about these fellow Christians he was greatly heartened by their response to the Good News of Jesus and their faith in him, which, in turn, had led to their expression of love to others. So much for the apostle to be thankful, this is where Paul began his praying, and perhaps it is a gentle reminder as to where we might begin...

And then concerned for their future growth and development, he goes on to pray for them that they may **'know what is the hope to which he has called you'**. Those early Christians faced many difficulties and day to day concerns, Paul wanted them to remain positive and looking to the Lord at all times. Again this is a timely reminder to us in these uncertain and testing days as we wonder how to go about our prayers....let's encourage each other to be thankful and 'count our blessings' as we seek to follow Paul's advice 'let us not grow weary of doing good....as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith' Galatians 6.9-10 The approaching Advent season bids us not only to look to the past coming of Jesus but also to look to the future and his glorious return. May the Lord strengthen our faith in the Lord Jesus, our service in love to one another and to be encouraged by the hope of glory.

John Risby

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ONLINE

There are no services in any of our churches this week due to the latest government restrictions. The following services are available across the team - full details on the website and the email bulletin.

SUNDAY

- 9.15am Holy Communion (Zoom) President: John Saxon
9.30am Holy Communion (Zoom) President: Caroline Currer
Preacher: Paula Griffiths
10.00am Holy Communion Christ the King (Zoom)
President: Alex Jeewan
10am St Mary's Holy Communion President: John Sibson

TUESDAY

- 5.00pm Evening Prayer (Zoom) Leader: John Saxon

WEDNESDAY

- 9.30am Holy Communion (Zoom) President: Paula Griffiths

AMENDED PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Administrator is available by phone or email on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am - 12noon, but no longer on a Tuesday.
The office is not currently open to personal callers.



See St Mary's Church, SW, website at www.stmaryssafronwalden.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/saintmaryschurchsafronwalden

The Grapevine

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

Christ the King
22nd November 2020

Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: *Ephesians 1.15-23*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Gospel: *Matthew 25.31-46*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Post Communion

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Churches Together Prayer Cycle: In November please pray for: **All Saints, Ashdon, Wimbish and Debden Schools**
The family and friends of those who have died recently:
Tim Hardingham, William Bentley, Audrey Peasgood
Tim's funeral will be held at St Mary's, Wendens Ambo at 11am on 2nd December and will be livestreamed. All are welcome to join online – details nearer the time.

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

As I write these words, it is the earnest hope of the Government that the current lockdown restrictions may be eased next month in order that we may be able to celebrate Christmas. No doubt what is in mind is to provide a counter to the anxiety and separation that we are all experiencing. To provide hope that families may be able to meet together, and indeed, that everyone may be able to gather and socialise once again. It is possible that after such a testing and sad year, that as a nation, we may think more of the real meaning of Christmas. This year all of us have been given time to reassess our values in life. We have good reason to be proud of all in the NHS and other frontline workers, we have had time and space to consider how important family and friends are, and it could be that many have had the chance to be more aware of God and his view of our troubled world.

It was because this was a troubled and divided world that Jesus came,

it was because anarchy and violence were rife that something had to be done,

it was because mankind needed a new start that the kingdom came,

it was because God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,

So as we pray for the world this Christmas, and the welfare of our nation, let us pray that there may be a greater awareness of the real meaning of Christmas. Yes it will be good, if we can all meet again in safety and celebrate Christmas, but so much more pleasing to our loving heavenly Father, if, like the wise men of old, we also come with our worship and heartfelt thanksgiving.

With love and prayers,
John Risby

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Benedict of Nursia [c.550]

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 23rd	Morning Psalm 96 & Revelation 14:1-13 Evening Psalm 80
Tue 24th	Morning Psalm & Revelation 14:14-end of 15 Evening Psalm 74 & Matthew 9:35-10.15
Wed 25th	Morning Psalm 112 & Revelation 16:1-11 Evening Psalm 122
Thurs 26th	Morning Psalm 125 & Revelation 16:12-end Evening Psalm 133
Fri 27th	Morning Psalm 139 & Revelation 17 Evening Psalm 146
Sat 28th	Morning Psalm 145 & Revelation 18 Evening Psalm 150

NEWS

Appointment of Team Rector

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Team Rector, Revd. Jeremy Trew. Jeremy is currently the vicar of St Gregory's, Seaton and St Michael's Beer in Devon. He and his wife, Alison, will be moving to Saffron Walden in the spring and he will be formally welcomed to start his ministry at a service at St Mary's in early March. You can find a letter from Jeremy and some photos on our website. Please pray for him and his family as they prepare to leave their current parishes.

There will be NO SERVICES IN CHURCH during the period of lockdown - however we will continue to provide services online and accessible by telephone.

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.

PRIVATE PRAYER During this period of lockdown, St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, is open on Wednesdays and Sundays between 2pm and 4pm. All Saints, Ashdon, is open every day. St Botolph's, Hadstock is open on Wednesdays between 1pm and 3pm.

BRIGHTEN YOUR CHRISTMAS! In order to support St Mary's as there's no church fair this year, I'm taking orders for a limited number of Crackers at £2 each (as last year).

Please email me with your order - dd.hoy@ntlworld.com - telling me how many crackers and numbers for male/female you need. Orders by the end of November please. **Diana Hoy IT'S TOO IMPORTANT NOT TO SEND A SHOEBOX.** This year it has been difficult to collect filled shoeboxes for vulnerable children across the world. However, you can still send a shoebox by going online and choosing what gifts you would like Operation Christmas child to put in the box for you! Go to shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk or for help to do this, phone Mike and Judith Felgate 01799 524747.

QUIET MORNING - 'Journeying into a new year' on **Saturday 28th November** via Zoom, led by St Mary's Prayer Team. Download the flyer from the bulletin for more details and sign up by contacting the Parish Office.

LYNN TRENEARY'S LATEST NEWSLETTER Lynn is now back in Maridi having written her Newsletter, which is now on the website, just before she set off. I also have some hard copies so do get in contact with me if you would like one and I can deliver it to your door; my email is suewalker619@btinternet.com

STREET PASTORS are prayer walking in pairs in the town during lockdown – contact the Parish Office for more information on how to take part.

THE PRAYER TEAM has decided to await the arrival of Jeremy Trew, our new rector, before issuing an updated version of the Prayer Diary. *Joe Hordern*

THE ADVENT STUDY COURSE/DISCUSSION GROUP starts next week. Please note that details of dates, topics and the zoom link are being sent to those who have signed up, but will NOT be on the Bulletin. Anyone still interested in joining the 4 week course can contact Caroline on c.currer@btinternet.com before Tuesday 24th November to see if places are available.

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 Alex Jeewan	01799 531153
Revd John Saxon	01799 541619
Revd Dr Caroline Currer	01799 584839