



THE FRIDAY EMAIL

Friday 11th October 2024

Friday Thought from Di Kitson:

Dear Friends,

Last Monday afternoon, the church at Great St Mary's was packed with 94 children, parents and teachers from our church school in Spellbrook. It was a delight to hear the church full of young voices chattering away.

They came to church to celebrate and give thanks for the harvest. Parcels of food were brought along to add to our own collection, when we too celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving. All food has now gone to the Food Bank and will hopefully help many in need.



The songs and service put together was a delight to listen to, and the children sang with much enthusiasm and read beautifully. I felt very privileged to be part of their thanksgiving service.

As we move over to our readings for this weekend, we find someone asking Jesus; "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus looks at this person, with love, which could be you or me. We may not be able to adequately describe eternal life, but most of us know it when we see it. We see this eternal quality in those who are able to live fully, love extravagantly and be all they are created to be. We can see the absence of this eternal quality in people who become obsessed by their possessions; so caught up in what they have and what they feel must have, that they seem to alienate themselves from life itself.

Eternal life is so much more than a prize to be achieved, when life in the here and now ends. Eternal life that has always been and always will be. We may not be able to adequately describe this eternal quality, but we will know it when we encounter it. People saw this eternal quality in the life of Jesus of Nazareth who lived so fully and loved so extravagantly that those who encountered him could see this eternal quality, the animation in the way he lived, as Jesus was always calling people to have an abundant life.

In Jesus we see a way of life that sacrifices, makes sacred, the letting go of things so that we can see what is already ours. The gift of life eternal, abundant, limitless, infinite and beyond. Let it be so among us, for LOVE is the way, now and forever, to life without end.
Amen.

May our heavenly father be with you all now and always.

Di Kitson

➤ READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15:

Seek the Lord and live,
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.
Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.
Therefore, because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.
For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.
Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.
Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Psalm 90:12-17:

So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

Turn, O Lord! How long?
Have compassion on your servants!
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.
Let your work be manifest to your servants,

and your glorious power to their children.
Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!

Mark 10:17-31:

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments:

"You shall not murder;
You shall not commit adultery;
You shall not steal;
You shall not bear false witness;
You shall not defraud;
Honour your father and mother."

He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.'

Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said,

'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'

When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples,

'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!'

And the disciples were perplexed at these words.

But Jesus said to them again,

'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.'

They were greatly astounded and said to one another,

'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said,

'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God;

for God all things are possible.'

Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.'

Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields,

for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—

houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions— and in the age to come eternal life.

But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

The collect for this Sunday

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
the joys of eternal life;
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.
Amen



❖ Details of Sunday 9.30am Parish Eucharist which is also live-streamed

- ❖ President: Revd Bill Church
- ❖ Preacher: Revd Bill Church
- ❖ Reader: Anne Spence
- ❖ Intercessions: Dawn Dickson
- ❖ Sunday Club: Gilly Squire
- ❖ Processional: Take my life, and let it be (tune: Nottingham)
- ❖ Gradual: Will you come and follow me (tune: Kelvingrove)
- ❖ Offertory: Lord, they word abideth (tune: Ravenshaw)
- ❖ Communion: God of mercy, God of Grace (tune: Heathlands)
- ❖ Choir Motet: O come ye servants of the Lord (music: Tye)
- ❖ Recessional: Thou, whose almighty word (tune: Moscow)

INTERCESSIONS FOR THIS WEEK

For the world-wide Church:

- ❖ Bishop Alan - Bishop of St Albans
- ❖ Bishop Jane - Bishop of Hertford
- ❖ The Venerable Janet Mackenzie - Archdeacon of Hertford
- ❖ The Revd Gaz Tracey - Area Dean
- ❖ Archbishop Justin - Archbishop of Canterbury
- ❖ In the Anglican cycle of prayer for the Episcopal Church in the Philippines
- ❖ In the Diocesan cycle of prayer for the people and parish of Pertenhall, Sharnbrook
- ❖ In our Deanery cycle of prayer for the parish and people of Standon and The Mundens with Sacombe
- ❖ For those being martyred or persecuted for their Christian faith



[\(https://releaseinternational.org/\)](https://releaseinternational.org/)

For our world:

- ❖ For the victims of Israel and Gaza during the current Israel-Palestinian conflict.
 - ❖ For the people of Ukraine, be they in their homeland or refugees in Europe.
 - ❖ For just and peaceful governance throughout the world, not least in Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Sudan, Somalia, China, Haiti, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Yemen, Iran, Pakistan, Myanmar, North Korea, and the DRC.
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- ❖ For those suffering from the effects of climate change or natural disaster.
 - ❖ For those working to reduce the effects of climate change.
 - ❖ For those working to relieve suffering throughout the world.
 - ❖ For emergency and keyworkers, scientists and leaders, medical and care workers, and, in this country, particularly for the NHS and social services.
 - ❖ For those being unjustly held captive or being persecuted
 - ❖ For those who have been abused in body, mind, or spirit.
 - ❖ For those who are victims of modern-day slavery and human trafficking.
 - ❖ For those who are victims of famine or poverty, praying for the work of the *Shiksha Rath* educational project in New Delhi which we support.
 - ❖ For those struggling with addiction.
 - ❖ For those who are homeless, and for the work of the *Holy Trinity Night Shelter* in Bishop's Stortford which we support.
 - ❖ For those involved in the migrant and refugee situation.
 - ❖ For the work of organisations which are working to bring an end to poverty.

For our town:

- ❖ For the staff and patients of our Central Surgery, the Princess Alexandra, Rivers, and Herts & Essex hospitals, for our care homes, social services, voluntary care sector.
- ❖ For Sawbridgeworth Town Council and for East Herts District Council and our councillors.
- ❖ For local businesses in these uncertain times.
- ❖ For our emergency services.
- ❖ For groups and organisations, including The Hailey Centre and library.
- ❖ For our youth organisations and uniformed brigades.
- ❖ For the pupils, teachers, staff, governors, and parents associated with our local schools, including our church school in Spellbrook, as they prepare for the new school year
- ❖ For those feeling isolated and lonely; particularly those living alone.
- ❖ For those who are concerned about making ends meet, and for organisations such as Harlow Foodbank and the evangelical church's pop-up store seeking to bring aid.

For the people of:

Sunday: Gilders, Roman Rise & Slater Lane
Monday: Cutforth Road & Barnard Road
Tuesday: The Meadows, Waterside Place & Priors Court
Wednesday: Vantorts Road, Alders Walk & The Square
Thursday: Greenstead & Vantorts Close
Friday: Hoestock Road & Wimborne Close
Saturday: Riverfield Lane, Millfields, April Place & Saffron Crescent

For the sick, tired, and bereaved, including:

Sue Adams, Angela Alder, Pam Brown, Jeanette Dedman, Rachael Dineen, Elsa Duce, Jimmy Galvin, John Ireland, Douglas Rose, Jackie White, Mark White.

For those who have died, including:

❖ Sue Kosin RIP

For our dearly departed ones, remembered at their year's mind:

❖ Anna Sullivan RIP (14th Sept)

*God of mission,
who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit
to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
joy to our worship, and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

➤ **All Souls' Memorial Service - Sunday 3rd November - 3pm**

Early next month will be our annual All Souls' Memorial Service when we'll gather to remember our loved ones who have died. There will be an opportunity to hold them in our thoughts and prayers, and to light a candle in their memory. The service will be followed by an opportunity to talk more in Church House over light refreshments.

If you intend to be at the service and would like the name of a loved one prayed for by name, please put their details on one of the slips of paper to be found at the back of church and place it in the blue box.



➤ **First Aid Course**

We are delighted to confirm that we have secured a combined Emergency First Aid at Work course with Emergency Paediatric First Aid training on 1st February 2025 09:00-17:00 for 12 people at Church House.



The course will cover both adult and child first aid training and will be £69.00 per person. The PCC is willing to fund this. However, if you feel able to contribute a portion or even all of this cost we would be most appreciative as we know that First Aid is a life skill, rather than specifically a skill for a church member.

If you are interested in booking your space on this training and/or if you have any questions please contact Debbie Cubitt: debbiecubitt10@gmail.com

➤ **Tiny Tots needs you!**



Tiny Tots parent and toddler group takes place every Tuesday morning in term time at 10am in the Parish Hall. For many years members of Mother's Union have very kindly volunteered to organise refreshments, but we are now very short of people who are able to help. Could you offer a couple of hours of your time on a Tuesday morning (it is likely to be once a month)?

Volunteers must take a Basic Awareness safeguarding course before they can start. This can be completed online, or in a group session for anyone who would find that easier. If you can help or would like more information, please contact Jane Johnson: 07808 684357 or email: jane@timnjane.co.uk

➤ **Save the Date**



Festival of Light
Saturday 30th November

Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 7th & 8th December



➤ **News from our associated CoE School in Spellbrook**

Mr Fisher – our Headteacher – writes:



On Monday, the whole school came to Great St Mary's Church for our Harvest Service, with many family members also joining us. We thought about creation and our wonderful world and our school value, generosity.

We sang a number of harvest songs; but 'The Big Red Combine Harvester' and 'The Sun Came Shining Down' have actions and repetition that the younger children particularly enjoyed. The traditional 'Lord of the Harvest' and 'Everywhere Around Me' helped us to think about nature's gifts and the children enjoyed finishing with the exuberant 'Harvest Samba' and a lovely counterpoint led by Diamond Class.



The contributions from the classes enabled us all to reflect on the meaning of harvest through the sharing of poems, prayers and some lovely artwork. Even the youngest children in Nursery and Reception came up to sing, giving them that wonderful experience of being part of a group performing in front of an audience.

Many thanks to Di Kitson for her support and involvement and to the members of the school community for contributing to the harvest donations, that have been collected for a local foodbank.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mr Fisher



Thank you for your ongoing support of Great St Mary's

Content for the Newsletter

If you have a notice for the Friday Email, please contact Angela Kenny in the Parish Office by Wednesday lunchtime.

➤ Contact us

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Facebook:

www.facebook.com and search for '[Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth](#)'

YouTube:

www.youtube.com and search for '[Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth](#)'



*Mustard Seed -
our monthly
short, informal
service
with crafts and
activities*



*Followed by a
party tea for
children
and hot
refreshments for
grown-ups.*

**Why not join us at 4pm
on the following
third Sundays of the month?**

2024

20th October

17th November

15th December





Great St Mary's
Sawbridgeworth

Passion for Christ - Compassion for all

ALL SOULS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

*Remembering our loved ones
with gratitude*

*Our annual opportunity to gather
and remember those who have died,
and to light a candle in their memory*

Sunday 3rd November
3pm

**Followed by light refreshments
in Church House**

