



## THE FRIDAY EMAIL

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020



### The Friday Thought from our Lay Reader, Diana Kitson:

As I was walking down The Forebury last Monday, I was struck by the wonderful autumnal view in front of me. Looking across to Hyde Hall, was this glorious picture of trees with the mixture of autumn colours. They were enhanced by the recent rain on the leaves as they glistened in the sunshine.



It brought to mind the wonder of all God's creation and the wonder of it all. I began to think of all the seasons that we enjoy every year, from the lovely spring flowers that grow during the winter months to give a beautiful picture in the spring. Then on to the flowers that are grown and planted for the summer to give such a glorious array of beauty and colour to behold during the summer months. Then onto autumn once again and into winter with its frost and sometimes snow, all bringing beauty for us to behold.

On Tuesday evening, I had a Zoom meeting for deanery Lay Chairs – those of us tasked with the job of bringing our various local churches together and helping them to share their joys and concerns - and we started with a short bible study, looking at a passage from the Old Testament book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 40. The passage begins with this verse: "Comfort, O comfort my people my people, says your God".

It reminded me of the pandemic we're undergoing and this second lock down; the way it's affecting people with hardship, loneliness, boredom, not being able to see families, and so many other things that are affecting our everyday lives. The reading, I found, gives us hope, telling the people that their exile will soon be over, and the glory and compassion of the Lord will be revealed to them. It's a beautiful piece of scripture and I commend it to you to read.

I return to the wonderful scene that I witnessed on Monday and the wonder of God's creation throughout the universe. In all our problems at present and in the future, through his love for us, we still have much to be thankful for. May God be with each one of us in all that we say and do, on this 'Stir Up Sunday' as we celebrate Christ the King.

Yours, Di

## Sunday's readings:

### The Book of the prophet Ezekiel, chapter 34, verses 11-16 & 20-24:

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

### St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 25, verses 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."

## [Details of Sunday's 9.30am service to be streamed on our Facebook page & website:](#)

- ❖ President and preacher: Revd Debbie (Associate Minister)
- ❖ Reader & intercessor: Richard Hore
- ❖ Voluntary: Allegro (1st movement) from Trio Sonata No.1 in Eb - BWV 525 (J.S. Bach)
- ❖ Processional: Jesus shall reign (tune: Truro)
- ❖ Gradual: The head that once was crowned with thorns (tune: St Magnus)
- ❖ Offertory: Crown him with many crowns (tune: Diademata)
- ❖ Motet: The king of love my shepherd is (arr. Edward Bairstow)
- ❖ Recessional: Rejoice the Lord is King (tune: Gopsal)
- ❖ Voluntary: March on Handel's theme 'Lift up your heads' (Alexandre Guilmant)

### [Intercessions for this week](#)

In addition to the Archbishop's call upon us to make this month a time of prayer during the lockdown, the three bishops of our diocese are dedicating this weekend as a 'Stir Up Sunday' period of prayer when we, as a diocese, ask God to stir up the fruits of the Holy Spirit in the ministry and work of God's Church at this challenging time. Online resources may be found here: [www.stalbans.anglican.org/stir-up-sunday/](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/stir-up-sunday/)



### [For the world-wide Church](#)

- ❖ Bishop Alan, Bishop of St Albans
- ❖ Archbishop Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury
- ❖ Bishop Michael, Suffragan Bishop of Hertford
- ❖ The Venerable Janet Mackenzie, Archdeacon of Hertford
- ❖ In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:
  - the Church of Bermuda and their bishop, the Rt Revd Nicholas Dill
- ❖ St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

### [For the world](#)

- ❖ Those who have died or are suffering in body, mind or spirit as a result of the pandemic
- ❖ Those who are working to relieve suffering; for key-workers, scientists and leaders
- ❖ For just and peaceful governance throughout the world
- ❖ Those who are being persecuted for their faith



### [For Great St Mary's and our community of Sawbridgeworth](#)

Sunday: Church Street, Blakes Court, Duckling Lane and Fair Green  
Monday: Tudor Court, West Court, and West Road.  
Tuesday: East Drive, East Park, and Kingsmead.  
Wednesday: Lawrence Moorings and Luxford Place  
Thursday: Forebury Avenue  
Friday: Sayesbury Avenue, Sayesbury Road, and Bells Walk  
Saturday: Lawrence Avenue and Saffron Gardens

### [For the sick and bereaved including:](#)

Linda Bowler, Una Bard, Pam Brown, Frieda Elfick, Elsie Harman, Rosemary Jones, Viv O'Leary, Edna Rose, Peter White, June Willis

### For the recently departed

- ❖ David Needham
- ❖ Marjorie Stone
- ❖ Ann Scadding
- ❖ Brian Ashdown
- ❖ Terry Smalling
- ❖ Hetty Luckie

### For those we remember at the anniversary of their death

- ❖ Richard Aberly
- ❖ Shelly Mason
- ❖ Lilian Leigh
- ❖ Allan King
- ❖ Peter Leigh

### Notices:

#### Services

Due to the government restrictions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are unable to meet for public worship until at least the beginning of December. However, the government is allowing priests, acting alone, to broadcast from their churches. Therefore, this Sunday, Revd Debbie and her husband Richard Hore will be in Great St Mary's, and will live stream the Eucharist at 9.30am. You will be able to join the live stream from about 9.15am via the church website or on the church's Facebook page

([www.facebook.com/groups/638305163631527](http://www.facebook.com/groups/638305163631527)), and you will be able to catch up with it in the afternoon on our YouTube page ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCxqJXUQJhmaGeviXn1jUalQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxqJXUQJhmaGeviXn1jUalQ)).



#### Year's Mind requests

Eileen Griffiths is collecting the names of our dear departed loved ones whom you would like to be remembered in our intercessions on the nearest Sunday to their anniversary. The blue request forms are now available in the church or you can email the details to Eileen at [eileenclaricegriffiths@gmail.com](mailto:eileenclaricegriffiths@gmail.com).

#### Open for private prayer

Despite the government restrictions, we can still open Great St Mary's for private prayer. Thank you to everyone who continues to enable this to happen by church-sitting. Great St Mary's will therefore be open for private prayer at the following times:

Monday:	10am till 12pm
Tuesday:	10am till 12pm
Wednesday:	10am till 12pm
Thursday:	2pm till 4pm
Friday:	10am till 12pm
Saturday :	10am till 12pm
Sunday:	2pm till 4pm

## Christmas tree and nativity crib church-sitting

We've had a good response from people offering to church-sit during the week before Christmas. That's because, from Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December until Christmas Eve, we would like to open the church for longer during the day so that, as well as private prayer, people have the opportunity to visit our nativity crib and to bring along a decoration to dress a community Christmas tree or to add a prayer to its branches. There are one or two slots still left so, if you are able to offer a couple of hours during that important week for our church and community, do please contact Di Kitson (01279 723212).

## Christmas in a Bag

The local churches of Sawbridgeworth and High Wych are joining together this Christmas to collect and give away special gift bags of Christmas treats and decorations to those local people who may not be able to get Christmas things for themselves this year.

Might you be able to donate any of the following items – or similar – to lift the spirits of those under pressure this Christmas?:

- ✓ Mince pies
- ✓ Chocolate log
- ✓ Luxury crisps such as Pringles
- ✓ Christmas decorations
- ✓ Christmas crackers
- ✓ Stollen
- ✓ Christmas cake
- ✓ Luxury biscuits
- ✓ Chocolate orange
- ✓ Selection boxes of chocolates

Donations may be delivered to Great St Mary's each day up until Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December whilst the church is open for private prayer.

And if you know someone who might appreciate a bag, please contact the Sawbridgeworth Evangelical Congregational Church – [office@secchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@secchurch.org.uk) (07549 006777).

## Churchyard Working Party – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November will be your last opportunity of the year to roll around in freshly cut churchyard grass. That's the day the Churchyard Working Party will gather at the usual time of 9.30am, and, with five and half acres to manage, there's plenty of space to socially distance! So all volunteers will be warmly greeted at the Churchyard Shed. If you don't know where that is, stand in the middle of the churchyard and holler! Alternatively, speak in advance to Chris Battson (01279 726316). If possible, please bring your own gloves and, in these socially distanced days, your own refreshments.



## News from Spellbrook

This week some of the teachers have been enriching the curriculum with virtual visitors. Ruby class (EYFS) had a road safety session with Sarah Elliot, HCC Road Safety Officer. She shared a story about travelling safely in a car, and talked about the importance of wearing a seatbelt properly and walking on the pavement. Meanwhile, Diamond class (Y5/6) had a video discussion with a professor of marine biology from Plymouth University. He explained all about evolution, inheritance, and adaptation - their current science topic. The children were really engaged, asked excellent questions, and made very thoughtful responses.



## Content for the Newsletter

If you have a notice for the Friday Email, please let Fr Simon or Anthony know by lunchtime on Thursday.

Thank you for your continued support of Great St Mary's.

## Contact us

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