

REFLECTIONS

The writer Lesslie Newbiggin recalled a trip to the ruins of Fountains Abbey, where, to his amusement, his guide book stated: 'Here [the Chapter House] the monks gathered every Sunday to hear a sermon from the Abbot, except on Trinity Sunday, owing to the difficulty of the subject.' Like me, you may have witnessed brave Trinity Sunday sermons involving ice cubes, water trays and steaming kettles; cans of 3 in 1 oil; sliced open jaffa cakes; and, of course, the good old clover leaf. I'm not sure they ever made me much wiser or more secure in my own faith. We certainly can't reduce Isaiah's God to a clever demonstration or a lawyer's definition, for the prophet declares that God cannot be contained within our human understanding: 'Who taught [God] knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?' (v.14) As has been wisely said: 'God is not the easy object of our knowledge, but the deepest cause of our wonder.'

Although God cannot be fully pictured, God *can* be known, God *can* be experienced. At the close of Matthew's gospel Jesus gives the disciples his Great Commission: 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...' (Matthew 28.19) This is Jesus' three-fold way of ensuring his Church plays its part in making God known and experienced. To baptise 'in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit' is more than words spoken at the font. It's to *immerse* others in a community that knows our creator as Father; loves Jesus, wanting to be more like him; and is open to the life-giving presence of his Spirit. Such a community cannot fail to be attractive and supportive, and it will make God known.

Going deeper...

Matthew doesn't white-wash the truth about the eleven: after everything they had seen and heard, including being witnesses to Jesus' resurrection, some still doubted (v.17). Powerful evidence for the truth of the gospel is that very ordinary, fallible, human beings became dynamic ambassadors for Christ, which resulted in the ancient world being turned upside down. In spite of our manifold shortcomings and uncertainties, Jesus still calls all of us to go and make him known.

I wonder...

How shall I play my part in building a community of God's love?

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ONLINE

Sunday - Live on Zoom

- 9.30am Holy Communion President: Paula Griffiths
Preacher: Robin King
9.30am Morning Prayer Leader Tim Hardingham
10.00am Holy Communion President: John Saxon
Pre-recorded (youtube)
Act of Worship Leader: Alex Jeewan
6.30pm H2H Youth Led service
Tuesday - Live on Zoom
5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: John Saxon
Wednesday - Live on Zoom
9.30am Holy Communion Alex Jeewan Michael Lovegrove

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 8th	Morning Psalm 1 & Luke 10:25-37 Evening Psalm 4
Tue 9th	Morning Psalm 5 & Luke 10:38-end Evening Psalm 9 & Romans 4:13-end
Wed 10th	Morning Psalm 119:1-32 & Luke 11:1-13 Evening Psalm 11
Thurs 11th	Morning Psalm 147 & 1 Corinthians 10:1-17 Evening Psalm 23
Fri 12th	Morning Psalm 100 & Acts 4:32-end Evening Psalm 147
Sat 13th	Morning Psalm 23 & Luke 11:37-end Evening Psalm 24

SAFFRON WALDEN & VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY

The Grapevine

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

Trinity Sunday
7th June 2020

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; 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: Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-31

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the spirit of the LORD, or as his counsellor has instructed him? Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice? Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he takes up the isles like fine dust. Lebanon would not provide fuel enough, nor are its animals enough for a burnt-offering. All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Gospel: Matthew 28.16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

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 June please pray for:
Saffron Walden Assemblies Team, Stort Valley Schools Trust

EVENTS

PCC MEETING A meeting of the PCC will be held on Zoom on **Wednesday 10th June** at 7:45pm. *Lisa Brook, PCC Secretary*

ANY QUESTIONS The Rt Revd. Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester who was to have been our speaker at the Weekend Away, has kindly agreed to answer any questions we wish to pose on any subject at a Zoom online meeting on **Sunday 14th June** at 4pm. If you wish to ask a question please contact Alex Jeewan 01799 531153 vicar.camvillages@gmail.com More information on the website.

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Choosing a carpet can be a very demanding experience: the size, colour and pattern all need to be right for the room and the task gets a whole lot more demanding if you are lucky enough to have it specially made for you. In modern times, the newly elected president of the United States has the luxury of choosing the Oval Office carpet. Barack Obama chose a beige carpet into which was woven the Presidential seal and a series of quotations, four from previous presidents and one very much associated with the speeches of Martin Luther King Jr.: 'The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice'. Dr King often used that phrase in his campaign for black rights and my thoughts turned to him when I heard the news of the violent demonstrations in Atlanta, in protest at the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Atlanta was Dr King's birthplace and has had a long history of civil rights activism and non-violent protest. Now anger at the brutal tactics used by the police has triggered a wave of protests across America. These events highlight again the divisions within the nation and the deep sense of injustice that many black Americans feel.

In times such as these we may be tempted to doubt the truth of those words woven into Obama's carpet. Yet as Christians we do not doubt that we live in a moral universe, because we constantly pray for the day when God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. The arc is undoubtedly a very long one and we may struggle to discern its curve, although, for very many of us, our circumstances are far better than in previous generations. This fact should fill us with gratitude and hope, ensuring we take seriously the work for equality and justice for all the world's people, and a fair deal for the whole creation.

The Oval Office quotations were carefully chosen and gave Barack Obama the inspiration he needed to carry on during difficult and disheartening times. I wonder what design and what quotations you would choose for your carpet and what inspiration and comfort they would bring you right now.

With love and prayers,
Andy Colebrooke

(P.S. Donald Trump has gone back to having Ronald Reagan's old rug.)

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Eternal God, you have revealed yourself to us in your grace as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Deliver us from a world without justice and a future without mercy; in your mercy, establish justice, and in your justice, remember the mercy revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

NEWS

ALL CHURCHES IN THE TEAM AND THE PARISH OFFICE REMAIN CLOSED until further notice in accordance with national guidelines.

EMAIL BULLETINS We are issuing regular email bulletins that highlight information from the website, attach the Grapevine and service sheet and provide the Zoom links for live services that weekend. Please email Dawn at office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org if you would like to be added to the distribution list.

WORSHIP ONLINE There are several ways of joining in our team worship which can be accessed from links on St Mary's Church at Home webpage. <http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/churchathome> You can watch a pre-recorded services and you can participate in live Zoom Services around the team. The service sheets and Grapevine are also available on the webpage.

YOU CAN NOW JOIN LIVE WORSHIP BY PHONE - you don't need a computer or tablet. If you would like to know more please contact Steve Hasler 01799 525041 s.hasler@btopenworld.com

H2H YOUTH LED SERVICE - this Sunday 6:30-7:30pm on Zoom. We will be exploring The Creed together. Bring your own cakes!

THANK YOU for the warm wishes and messages of support on my Licensing as Team Vicar here. Dawn and I feel very welcome and happy to be with you. We look forward to continue to work with you in the team churches, Parish Office and particularly at Debden and Wimbish. We are looking forward to being led by God for the years of ministry ahead. Best wishes, *John and Dawn Saxon*

PRAYER STEWARDS We do not yet have any dates for opening the church building. I am expecting that, initially, no services will be held, but there may be an opportunity for private prayer. This will only be possible when we have stewards present to check all health measures are adhered to. I am currently drawing up a list of people to do this. We do realise many will still be vulnerable and we would not wish to put anyone at risk. If you are interested, please email me - gillcas@icloud.com *Gill Caswell*

NEW PRAYER CHAIN COORDINATOR Kathryn Fiddock has agreed to take over the coordination of the prayer chain from Juliette Welch. We are very grateful to them both. If anyone wants prayer for someone they know or for themselves please phone Kathryn on 01799 500844. If you are interested in being part of the prayer chain please let Kathryn know - we would love to have you with us! *Sue Walker*

June's edition of **PARISH NEWS** is available on the website at <http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews>

We will be presenting a **GOOD NEWS BIBLE** to every Year 6 pupil leaving St Mary's at the end of the summer term. They cost £12 each. If you would like to contribute, please put your donation in an envelope marked "School Bibles" and drop it in the letter box at St Mary's Parish Office. Cheques should be made payable to 'Saffron Walden PCC'. If you would like to give online please email office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org or contact the office 01799 506024 (Mon to Fri 9.30am - 12 noon). Thank you. *Dawn Saxon*

MINISTRY TEAM

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