

REFLECTIONS

Growing and pain seem to be powerful images in the Letter to the Romans. Being part of creation can be a painful process for so many, especially, you may reflect, at the moment or in the last few months. Also, on another level, all of us, when we are aware of our own imperfections, know that admitting mistakes can be a difficult, painful mental process and saying sorry meaningfully can be a very humbling experience. But how often do we easily say the words of confession when we are in church without too much thought?

The Epistle also today, when talking about faith, talks to us about children, about growing up. As Christians, we endeavour to follow the life of Jesus by learning the lessons, teachings and examples given to us in the Gospels. We would like to be faithful 'plants' but often we are more like 'weeds'?

I have often reflected that, if we endeavour to match ourselves against the full maturity of Christ, we would perhaps, at best, be seen as adolescents with all the ups and downs associated with that stage of human development.

I may have used this example before but there is no harm in certain repetitions; there is a lovely twist on a well known saying that **'if at first you don't succeed, what a normal life you lead'**. That is our predicament as humans and, while thinking of quotes, Victor Hugo, the writer of Les Misérables, wrote **'the word God has written on the brow of everyone is hope'**.

So, as we read, reflect and hopefully learn the lessons we have in the Epistle and Gospel, we realise that these words are as fresh today as they were in the beginning and we have the mystery of a hope we cannot see, and yet we, through faith, are given ears to help us understand.

Chris Bishop

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES
SUNDAY IN CHURCH

St Marys, SW 10am Holy Communion
President: Andy Colebrooke
Ashdon 9.30am Morning Prayer Leader: Alan Currer

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ONLINE

SUNDAY

9.30am Holy Communion President: Chris Bishop
Preacher: Caroline Currer
9.30am Morning Service Leader: Tim Hardingham
10.00am Holy Communion President: Hilary Davey
Youtube Act of Worship Leader: Alex Jeewan

TUESDAY - Zoom 5.00pm

Evening Prayer Leader: Alan Currer

WEDNESDAY- Zoom 9.30am Holy Communion

Alex Jeewan Michael Lovegrove

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Mon 20th | Morning Psalm 126 & Luke 20:41-21.4 Evening Psalm 127 |
| Tue 21st | Morning Psalm 132 & Luke 21:5-19 Evening Psalm 135 & 2 Corinthians 7:2-end |
| Wed 22nd | Morning Psalm 30 & Luke 8:1-3 Evening Psalm 63 |
| Thurs 23rd | Morning Psalm 143 & Luke 21:29-end Evening Psalm 138 |
| Fri 24th | Morning Psalm 144 & Luke 22:1-13 Evening Psalm 145 |
| Sat 25th | Morning Psalm 7 & Luke 9:46-56 Evening Psalm 94 |

The Grapevine

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

Sixth Sunday after Trinity
19th July 2020

Collect

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading: Romans 8.12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ - if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel: Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!'

Post Communion

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.



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 July please pray for:
Saffron Walden Salvation Army Corps, Katherine Semar Schools

The family and friends of those who have died recently:
Rosina Wilson, Beryl Love, Ronald Kitson

NEWS

THANK YOU to those who have given donations towards the Rainbow Bibles to be given by St Mary's Church to all Year 6 pupils at St Mary's school. It's not too late to contribute if you wish to make a donation (bibles £12 each). Cheques payable to "St Mary's Saffron Walden PCC" (please write on the back of the cheque 'school bibles'). Please put through the Parish Office letterbox or post to: St Mary's Parish Office, Church Path, Saffron Walden CB10 1JP. Thank you. *Dawn Saxon*

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

As we read these words from the Letter to the Romans and then the words given to us by Matthew's Gospel, we have to do our best to put our minds back to the world from which they came. To put it graphically, the Resurrection experience for the disciples must have been, to put it mildly, a world turning upside down experience that literally 'launched' them out into their dangerous world, both frightened and invigorated by the experience they had had. We are people of faith and we are distanced from what happened then, but we can still, of course, read and read between the lines of what was happening.

Paul, living and working in a tense, dangerous world, under the domination of a foreign power and preaching his faith in the one God, so often in a polytheistic part of society, knew of the dangers.

Jesus' messages, parables and way of life were opening people's eyes and ears to new possibilities, new horizons of understanding, even to the point of God being spoken of as ABBA, father. After the first Easter, with all that had gone before for his followers, and there were of course, as we know, many more than that inner circle, the pennies - so to speak - started dropping!

Choices had to be made. In the world of faith, weeds had to become plants; children of faith had to grow into adults. Let's be honest then, in so many ways little has changed in the few years history-wise since the days we celebrate every time we gather for worship.

'If at first we don't succeed, try, try again.'

With love and prayers
Chris Bishop

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

O Lord God, who called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untraced, through perils unknown: Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we are going, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; to the glory of your name.

E. Milner-White & G.W. Briggs

NEWS

CHURCH SERVICES Some of our churches are open for services this weekend. Please see the list of services on the back page. In order to book your place at a Sunday Service at St Mary's, please email or telephone the Parish Office before noon on the previous Friday, giving your name, telephone number and postcode. You are welcome to just turn up on the day but, if the new capacity for each church has already been reached, you may not be able to join the service.

PRIVATE PRAYER St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, is open for private prayer on Wednesday and Sunday 12-4. All Saints, Ashdon is open for private prayer on Wednesday and Sunday between 11am and 6.00pm.

St James, Swards End will be open for private prayer on **Sunday 26th July 2.30-4pm.**

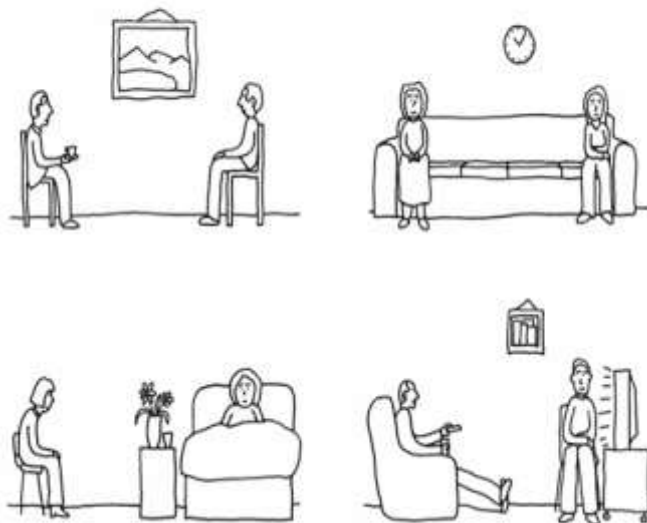
EMAIL BULLETINS are issued each week that highlight information from the website, attach the Grapevine and service sheet and provide the Zoom links for live services that weekend. Please email Dawn at office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org if you would like to be added to the distribution list.

WORSHIP ONLINE will continue as shown on the back page. 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 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

CARTOON BY DAVE WALKER

AWKWARD PASTORAL VISITS



CartoonChick.com

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 Currer | 01799 584839 |