

REFLECTIONS

In the Free Church tradition in which I grew up every service of divine worship contained a psalm. In several of the "Common worship" orders of service of the Church of England psalms are either optional or not included. But the book of Psalms has been for centuries the primary resource for the devotional life of the people of God. Its "varied and resplendent riches" (Calvin) include magnificent hymns of praise, poignant outpourings of the soul in prayer and earnest professions of the faithful.

I regret the fact that most of our modern services do not include a psalm. The book of Psalms is a book of religious poetry. More exactly lyrical poetry. That is to say, poetry which expresses the feelings of the writer, not about anything and everything in general, but in the case of the psalms - the experience of life drawn out by the unfailing awareness of the divine presence come what may, be it rough or smooth.

For Christians it is important to remember that the fundamental content of Jesus' teaching is essentially the same as the central theological affirmation of the Psalter and also that certain specifics of Jesus' teaching are closely related to the psalms.

I commend to you the use of the psalms in your daily devotions. Why not start with the psalm appointed for today (Psalm 106) which begins: "Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord for he is good: for his steadfast love endures forever."

Michael Lovegrove

**THIS WEEK'S SERVICES
SUNDAY IN CHURCH**

St Marys, Saffron Walden
10am Holy Communion President: Michael Lovegrove

Sewards End 9.30am Harvest Festival Leader: Chris Bishop

Little Walden 11.15am Harvest Festival Leader: Tracey Nicholls

Hadstock 9.30am Holy Communion¹⁶⁸² President: Paula Griffiths

Ashdon 9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren

Debden 9.15am Harvest Festival Leader: John Saxon

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ON ZOOM**SUNDAY**

10.00am Holy Communion President: Michael Lovegrove
11.00am Holy Communion President: John Saxon

TUESDAY

5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: Paula Griffiths

WEDNESDAY

9.30am Holy Communion Caroline Curren

**NEXT SUNDAY 18th October 2020
SERVICES IN CHURCH**

St Marys, Saffron Walden
Family Service 10.00am Leader: Tracey Nicholls

Hadstock 3.00pm Millennium Service Leader: Paula Griffiths

Ashdon 9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren
Wimbish 9.15am Holy Communion President: John Saxon

The Grapevine

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

**Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
11th October 2020****Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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: *Philippians 4.1-9*

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel: *Matthew 22.1-14*

Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

Post Communion

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever.

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 October please pray for:
Ashdon Baptist Church, Ashdon Primary School
Those who are getting married at Debden on 17th October:
Peter Vine & Emily Day
The family and friends of those who have died recently:
**David Peter Schooling, Elizabeth (Betty) Dixon,
Pauline Haigh**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Following the short period when "Lock down" restrictions were eased Gill and I managed two short breaks, one in Lincolnshire and one in Pembrokeshire. As usual we took with us that wonderful book by Simon Jenkins "England's Thousand Best Churches" with the intention of visiting as many churches as possible. They were all firmly locked due to Covid-19 with no indication of how entry might be gained.

Gradually in our own Deanery some churches have partially re-opened for public worship at the same time as new and imaginative ways of worshipping God have developed using modern technology. We are fortunate in having the majestic, cathedral like church in Saffron Walden and we surrounded by beautiful village churches - not to mention the lovely "Tin Tabernacle" at Littlebury Green. How we have missed gathering together for prayer and praise and singing familiar hymns!

Solomon poured his wealth into the building of the Temple in Jerusalem but he was aware of the danger of trying to contain God. "Heaven itself, the highest heaven cannot contain thee"; how much less this house I have built". God cannot be shut up in a building however fine.

So we give thanks for "Streaming" and for "Zoom" and for the other ways of reaching those who cannot get to church and for those who join us who would not normally attend any church. For those of us who join these services "on line" we should remember Christ's promise that "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them". And so he is!

With love and prayers,
Michael Lovegrove

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 12th	Morning Psalm 80 & Acts 26:1-23 Evening Psalm 85
Tue 13th	Morning Psalm 89:1-18 & Acts 26:24-end Evening Psalm 89:19-end & Mark 15:16-32
Wed 14th	Morning Psalm 119:105-128 & Acts 27:1-26 Evening Psalm 91
Thurs 15th	Morning Psalm 92 & Acts 27:27-end Evening Psalm 94
Fri 16th	Morning Psalm 88(95) & Acts 28:1-16 Evening Psalm 102
Sat 17th	Morning Psalm 97 & Acts 28:17-end Evening Psalm 104

NEWS

SERVICES IN CHURCH Details are listed on the back page. **It is now compulsory to wear a mask** unless you have an exemption.

Advance booking is advised to attend St Mary's, SW as services are now close to capacity and we cannot guarantee that you will be able to enter the church if you haven't booked. Please book your place online using the link on the weekly bulletin or the website – alternatively, email or telephone the Parish Office before noon on the previous Friday, giving your name and telephone number.

No booking is required for the village churches but, if the service has reached capacity, you may not be able to enter.

PRIVATE PRAYER St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, is open on Wednesdays and Sundays between 2pm and 4pm. *Gill Caswell* All Saints, Ashdon, is open on Wednesday and Sunday between 11am and 6.00pm.

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.

ST MARY'S ANNUAL MEETINGS 25TH OCTOBER at 12 noon This year's Annual Meetings will be held on Zoom using the same joining details as for our normal Sunday Zoom service. Nomination forms for PCC and Deanery Synod membership may be submitted by email no later than 17th October to the PCC secretary on

pcc@stmaryssafronwalden.org and should include the names of the proposer and seconder. This year due to the unusual circumstances we will not require the forms themselves to be signed. If you wish to find out more of what being on these bodies involves please contact me, the churchwardens or any of the existing members. *Lisa Brook*

When did you last visit the **ECO CHURCH** pages of our website? You'll find them under the 'Other' tab. The latest article is "Let's grasp the scale of the Challenge" and the one before, controversially was: "Let's not save the Planet." Meanwhile if you are involved in any environmental organisation or activity locally, please let us know:

edward@edwardgildea.co.uk

ST MARY'S PRE SCHOOL is looking to recruit volunteers as members of our Committee. A background in a pre-school environment is not necessary only that you are keen to join us in supporting an enthusiastic and dedicated staff providing an excellent and nurturing environment to the younger members of Saffron Walden. Due to COVID19, we are currently using zoom to meet so access to a computer is useful. Membership of the committee is subject to a satisfactory DBS check. If you would like more information, please contact Sandra Marsh - sandra_marshall@hotmail.com

SHOEBOX APPEAL We want boys and girls around the world to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them during this time of fear and uncertainty. Unfortunately, due to restricted access at St Mary's at the present time we are not able to operate our usual Shoebox Appeal through Operation Christmas Child. However, you can still bring joy to children by donating shoeboxes online by selecting a range of gifts, which will be packed and sent for you. Visit shoeboxonline.org.uk by 21st November. If you have any queries please contact Mike and Judith Felgate on 524747.

MINISTRY TEAM

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