

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?

OUR CHURCHES' DIARY

TODAY **7th June** **TRINITY SUNDAY**

SERVICES ONLINE at www.camvillages.org.uk

This week on YouTube

11.30 am HOLY GROUNDS on Zoom

Monday - Friday 5.00 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

THIS WEEK

Wednesday 10th June

9.30 am Holy Communion

Alex Jeewan & Michael Lovegrove

"Close Encounters with Jesus" John Risby via email

NEXT SUNDAY 14th June TRINITY 1

SERVICES ONLINE at www.camvillages.org.uk

CAM VILLAGES MINISTRY TEAM

Team Vicar: Revd Alex Jeewan 01799 531153
email: vicar.camvillages@gmail.com

Revd Tim Hardingham 01799 542874

Revd JohnRisby

Elizabeth Marshall 01799 530265

Cam Villages Website: www.camvillages.org.uk

SAFFRON WALDEN & VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY

The Grapevine

COVERING THE CHURCHES OF
GREAT & LITTLE CHESTERFORD, LITTLEBURY WITH
LITTLEBURY GREEN, & WENDENS AMBO

Welcome to our services today
TRINITY SUNDAY

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.'

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Those who are unwell:

Margaret Reed (Gt Chesterford)

Those who need our support:

Betty Dowsett (Littlebury Green)

Lucy Maskell (Great Chesterford)

Kylie Moore-Gilbert (in prison in Iran)

Friends and families of those who have died:

Those whose anniversaries are this week

Other topics for your prayers:

- The people of the United States of America
- All who face discrimination
- Children returning to school
- Those with the responsibility for determining the level of lockdown in the coming weeks
- Those ill with Covid19 in hospitals and at home with thanksgiving for those treating them
- Our churches as we maintain worship in new ways
- Those missing loved ones who have died

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Like you, I have been upset by what has happened in the United States this week. It is a country I love very much because of its diversity, its character and its places of both natural or manmade beauty. It has not had an easy history with its treatment of the indigenous population, slavery, violence due to its gun laws, inequality and racism. Recently people have taken to streets to protest about the death of George Floyd, a black man who died while being arrested by the police. Some of these protests have been peaceful but some have turned into violent rioting.

The United States is a country that has always emphasised how 'free' it is. Freedom is of course important in any society and the Founding Fathers sought to write a 'Constitution' to create a new and free society. When writing the constitution of America the First Amendment of the United States Constitution declares, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble..."

The Founding Fathers would, I am sure, be horrified to see what is currently happening in America. Now I am certainly not political and, if I am honest, I'm not really sure that I understand politics. However, if everyone is free to decide on what is good for themselves and their families then how can the government or society in general say what is right or wrong?

In my mind (and my heart), this where the Christian faith needs to be part of the core of society. The Christian faith provides a moral backbone to the law. It acts as a moral compass, helping us to consider the difference between right and wrong. I really do worry as society becomes increasingly secular that the poor and disenfranchised will be ignored. Jesus was overtly on the side of the poor, the excluded, the ignored, the disenfranchised and the exploited. He was on their side even if it damaged his reputation and his standing in society. He was on their side when he drove out the money-lenders in the temple courts and he was on their side when it cost him his life. Jesus was still ministering to the two criminals who were crucified with him as he was dying.

It seems that human beings are not able to bring about peace on their own. This is why we need God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Through them we can have forgiveness and new life. We can do nothing on our own but through what Jesus Christ did on the Cross, anything is now possible.

With love,

Alex.

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

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

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 St Mary's website.

WEDNESDAY 9.30 am ZOOM HOLY COMMUNION with Alex Jeewan and Caroline Currer
For an invitation to Zoom services please contact Alex or Gillian (website.camvillages@gmail.com)

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS (with Jesus)

John Risby's Brief Bible Study outlines continue every Wednesday: Looking at some of the people who met with Jesus - Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the paralytic, the rich young ruler, the thief on the cross and Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus.

Outlines will be sent by email each Wednesday, open to all, please book in at john.risby179@btinternet.com

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

There is support available in all our 5 communities during the lockdown. Contact details have been circulated. Don't hesitate to get in touch with them or to encourage your neighbours to - whatever the need.

SUPPORTING THE CHURCH

During the current pandemic. We are still trying to support our communities by providing online services, pastoral care and linking with local support groups.

As the church buildings are not open we are not able to receive donations in the usual way. The church is NOT centrally funded but relies on the generosity of those who use the churches and/or live in the parishes. There are many bills to pay just to keep the church buildings running and, as there are no weekly collections, we need further help to pay the bills.

We know this is a difficult time for everyone but if you can spare something to support your local church then please contact your church treasurer or contact me (vicar.camvillages@gmail.com) if you would like further information or for your treasurer's email address.

If you support your church through a weekly envelope scheme please let your church treasurer have your filled envelopes each month. With love, Alex

KEEP IN TOUCH

With all that's going on via our churches' website www.camvillages.org.uk

NEWS

PARISH OFFICE The Parish Office is now closed to visitors but we are contactable by telephone and email as usual.

WEEKEND AWAY

There are still places available on the rescheduled weekend away **16th-18th July 2021**. Go to <http://stmaryssaffronwalden.org/weekendaway2021> for details and how to book.