

REFLECTIONS

Reflection

We read in our Gospel passage (9v36) that Jesus had compassion on the crowds who were harassed and helpless, like a sheep without a shepherd. We can look around at the world today and see that some things do not change. The needs are indeed great, yet the labourers are few. We may also empathise with the disciples too, being sent out into the needy world to do what Jesus had been doing – to proclaim the good news and to heal the sick (10v7&8). The good news of the Kingdom of God was to be communicated freely without cost, not forced onto unwitting people but shared in humility and peace.

Commentators note that the introduction to this Gospel section is almost identical to the beginning of Jesus' first discourse of the Sermon on the Mount (compare 4:23 with 9.35). Following his initial teaching Matthew records Jesus travelling the regions and sharing the Good News with accompanying signs and wonders. Our Gospel passage today sees the invitation to the disciples to join in this ministry with him and that invitation still stands for us today. Matthew uses this occasion to list the names of Jesus' disciples and calls them Apostles. Apostle simple means 'sent out'. As disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ today, we are also called to be Apostles, those sent out with Good News into a world ripe for Harvest.

Going Deeper

In response to Jesus' command in verse 38, 'Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest,' the disciples had become part of the answer to their own prayers! I believe it was our Diocesan Bishop Stephen Cottrell who said something like do not dare to pray for something that you are not willing to be part of the answer. If we pray for the poor and hungry, how do we respond to the desperate plight of those in our world or justify the abundance of how we live? If we pray for the climate catastrophe confronting us, how do we live more sustainably and responsibly for future generations?

I Wonder...

If we pray for God's Kingdom to come, how do we become part of the answer to bringing healing, peace and hope for our world in need?

OUR CHURCHES' DIARY

TODAY 14th June TRINITY 1

**SERVICES ONLINE at www.camvillages.org.uk
This week on YouTube
11.30 am HOLY GROUNDS on Zoom**

THIS WEEK

4.00 pm Q & A with Bishop Roger on Zoom
Monday - Friday 5.00 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom
Wednesday 17th June
9.30 am Holy Communion Alex Jeewan & Caroline Curren

NEXT SUNDAY 21st June TRINITY 2

2.00 pm Funeral - Kate Brown Cam Valley Crematorium
**SERVICES ONLINE at www.camvillages.org.uk
11.30 am HOLY GROUNDS on Zoom**

CAM VILLAGES MINISTRY TEAM

Team Vicar: Revd Alex Jeewan 01799 531153
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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
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Collect

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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 *Romans 5.1-8*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Gospel *Matthew 9.35 - 10.8*

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Those who are unwell:

Margaret Reed (Gt Chesterford)
Ken Harvey (Wendens Ambo)

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:

Kate Brown (Great Chesterford)
Those whose anniversaries are this week

Other topics for your prayers:

- All who face discrimination, and for peaceful protests against it
- 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,

I have been challenged this week by the discussions concerning the possibility of lowering of clergy numbers in this diocese. I should probably add here that this is a national concern rather than a local one. However, the Church can no longer afford to maintain its current way of working in the current circumstances. If I am honest, it worries me a little and comes at a time when the Church truly needs to be a beacon of hope.

Coronavirus and the lockdown have brought things to a head and the Church is looking at how to make itself sustainable for the future.

Bishop Peter has been addressing this and is trying to encourage people to look again at their giving. He says 'Do you realise that if 20,000 of our roughly 30,000 church members across the diocese gave an average of an extra £1 a week it would raise £1m per annum and begin to address our immediate financial crisis; an extra £2 (one cup of coffee) would solve it and an average extra £5 a week would transform our mission capacity and enable us to plan to deploy more clergy and lay leaders! That is the simple reality. It really isn't that big an ask for some of us, although of course it is for others.' I wonder how that sounds to you? I think one of the major challenges is that the Church is seen as a rich entity and it is not commonly known that each church needs money from its congregation to drive forward its mission and ministry. It requires generosity and generous giving.

As Christians, the Bible is clear throughout its pages that we are called to give generously. Even in the book of Exodus, chapter 35, we see the Israelites all generously giving the materials and time to build the tabernacle. If any of those people decided to withhold the materials they owned or the skills they had, the tabernacle wouldn't have come together. Move forward some books in the Bible, and in Malachi 3:10-12, giving is the one thing God tells us to test him in. In the New Testament God himself gave us his only son because he loves us so much, and that Son died on a cross for us. It sets a model that generosity in God's people should be sacrificial. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, St Paul writes, 'Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.'

I can't emphasize enough how it has become ever more important to be a cheerful giver, especially if we can do so by just giving one extra pound a week. However, even if you can't give anything more financially, then please do give your prayers; the world and the Church need it more than ever.

With love,
Alex

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Heavenly Father, rather than being fearful of the changes this life throws upon us, help us to turn to you in trust and obedience to face the challenges that come our way. May we be guided, strengthened and equipped for all that you call us to, and so, being nourished by your love, we may grow as your disciples. Amen

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

AT LAST. . . As from Monday 15th June our churches are able to be open for private prayer. As there are a number of procedures that have to be followed before and while they are open, we ask that you read the notices provided and follow the instructions so that all have the opportunity to pray safely. All Saints, Great Chesterford, will be open each day 10 am - 3 pm; Holy Trinity, Littlebury, will not be open this coming week as cleaning has to be done, but the week after will be open on Wednesdays and Sundays 10 am - 4 pm; St Mary, Wendens Ambo, please ring 01799 218309 for opening details.

ANY QUESTIONS The Rt Revd Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester who was to have been our speaker at the Weekend Away, will be answering any questions we wish to pose on any subject at a Zoom meeting this afternoon 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 Curren
For an invitation to Zoom services please contact Alex or Gillian (website.camvillages@gmail.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.

KEEP IN TOUCH

With all that's going on via our churches' website www.camvillages.org.uk especially the variety of services available for us on Sundays; don't forget at 11.30 am on Sundays there's

Holy Grounds

the Cam Villages Churches virtual after service coffee and chat. on Zoom at 11.30 am. For an invite or if you need help get onto Zoom please email Gillian on Website.camvillages@gmail.com and she will get back to you and talk you through.

NEWS

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

BISHOP STEPHEN

Bishop Stephen Cottrell will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York at 11am on Thursday 9 July 2020, in a service broadcast entirely via video conference on the Church of England website due to the coronavirus restrictions. Full details at <https://yorkminster.org/latest/confirmation-of-election-of-bishop-stephen-cottrell/>

WEEKEND AWAY

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