# **REFLECTIONS**

There is no pleasing some people. John the Baptist couldn't please them with his austere lifestyle and message of judgement; Jesus couldn't please them by feasting with outcasts and sinners. A generation, so set in its ways, rejected God's word for their time, whether it came in a solemn, judgemental way or in joyful, mercy-filled way. But God's ways are not our ways: he is always going ahead of us doing new things, in unexpected ways, so Jesus counsels that the proof of God's pudding will be in the eating! (cf v.19)

Those who are receptive to Jesus' message are not the wise and the intelligent, that is the religious leadership with its vested interests, but the simple, humble souls who are free from preconceptions and prejudice - those whom Jesus terms 'infants'. And this is the way God has willed it: 'All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.' (v.27). Jesus will reveal the Father and the Son to anyone humble enough to listen to him.

Verses 28-30 emphasise the rest or relief that Christian discipleship brings. The fastidious demands of the Scribes and Pharisees tied heavy burdens on people's shoulders (Matthew 23.4) with no prospect of relief; following Jesus, whilst still a very demanding task, releases us from legalism. To take on his yoke is to commit oneself to a lifetime of learning to follow him. Through it he promises rest for our souls, although we should never forget that he still walks the way of the cross.

#### Going deeper

Romans 7 describes our universal human experience. In our best moments we echo the psalmist: 'Your decrees are my delight, they are my counsellors' (Psalm 119.24), but then we discover that we wallow in our own selfish desires. Despite a determination to obey God's commandments, we continually disobey (in thought if not in deed). A war rages within us and it can seem like a losing battle. The question is, are we fighting this battle alone or is there someone to help us? Paul declares: 'The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does.' (v.28 The Message Translation). This is the answer we need to hear and in Romans 8 Paul will tell us more!

I wonder... Am I too set in my ways to recognise when God is doing something new?

# **OUR CHURCHES' DIARY**

# **TODAY** 5th July TRINITY 4

SERVICES ONLINE at www.camvillages.org.uk This week on YouTube and

**9.30 am Family Service** on Zoom (contact Revd Tim to get there)

11.30 am HOLY GROUNDS on Zoom

# THIS WEEK

#### Wednesday 8th July

9.30 am Holy Communion Alex Jeewan & Caroline Currer **Evening Prayer via Zoom** 5 pm Tuesday-Thursday

#### **NEXT SUNDAY** 12th July TRINITY 5

SERVICES ONLINE at ww.camvillages.org.uk 9.30 Service at St Mary's, Wendens Ambo (or via Zoom) 11.00 Service at Holy Trinity, Littlebury 11.00 Service at All Saints. Great Chesterford

# **CAM VILLAGES MINISTRY TEAM**

Team Vicar: Revd Alex Jeewan 01799 531153 email: vicar.camvillages@gmail.com Revd Tim Hardingham 01799 542874 Revd John Risby

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 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

#### Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

# First Reading Romans 7.15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

#### **Gospel** *Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30*

At that time Jesus said, 'To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn." For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds. I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

# PLEASE PRAY FOR:

#### Those who are unwell:

Ken Harvey (Wendens Ambo) Michelle Thomson (Littlebury Green) Margaret Reed, David Cook and Valerie Clift

(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:

- Bishop Stephen as he prepares to become Archbishop of York on Thursday
- For young people awaiting assessment results in place of GCSE and A level examinations
- That reaction to racial (or any other form of discrimination) may be thoughtful and without violence
- For ongoing efforts to contain Covid-19, especially in developing countries
- The process of appointing a new Team Rector
- Our churches as we maintain worship in new ways, and look to future patterns of worship when back in church
- Those missing loved ones who have died

# **VICAR'S LETTER**

#### Dear friends,

This week we have been thinking carefully this week about how our churches can re-open safely for public worship next week. I am pleased to say most of our churches can re-open in the coming weeks but things may look rather different. We will have to adhere to the 2m social distance rule and this means we may have a reduced capacity in our church buildings. An example of this is that St Mary's in Saffron Walden may only accommodate 50 people with strict adherence to social distancing! If you think about the size of that church, you can see why that numbers seems outstandingly small! There will also be no singing, no tea or coffee afterwards and no shared cup for Holy Communion for a while. Services may look rather different but we will be together at last! However, we also hope to be able to offer a live-streamed service from All Saints in Great Chesterford for anyone to join from home if they'd like to do so.

It is strange to think that I often pray for more people to come to church but those who are are vulnerable may still feel that they should still stay at home and this should be encouraged. I hope we have learnt that the church isn't about a building. It is about the people of God meeting together, praying together and worshipping God together. We will always look to welcome all those who come, virtually or physically so we can share God's love with them.

As God's Church we have been adapting and changing over the last few months. The Church is often seen as old, fusty and not changing with the times but I don't think this could ever be said again. We have truly learnt that nothing is impossible for God and how flexible His people can be.

So I look forward to seeing you soon but please don't feel pressured to rush to church because we are still the body of Christ, united in purpose even when separate in place. We are united by the precious blood of Christ and therefore nothing can separate us from the love of God or each other.

With love,

Alex

PS. If you want join our livestream when it begins, a good place to starting is to join Facebook and then searching it for 'Cam Villages Churches'. If you like us, you will get a reminder of when we 'go live' and then you'll be able to join us wherever you are! If you need any help with this just contact me or Gillian (<a href="website.camvillages@gmail.com">website.camvillages@gmail.com</a>).

# PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Teach me, my God and King, In all things Thee to see, And what I do in anything To do it as for Thee.

George Herbert

#### **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

**THANK YOU...** to those of you who have responded to Alex's reminder not to forget your church in this time when there are no services in church and therefore no collections. You can now give online too. Just visit the 'giving' section of our website. Thanks, too, to those who have chosen to commit to regular planned giving.

#### AT LAST...

Our churches are now open for private prayer. All Saints, Great Chesterford, is open each day 10 am - 3 pm:

Holy Trinity, Littlebury is open on Wednesdays and Sundays 10 am - 4 pm;

St Mary, Wendens Ambo, please ring 01799 218309 for opening details.

St Peter's, Littlebury Green will be open on Wednesdays and Sundays

# 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)

#### 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 <a href="Website.camvillages@gmail.com">Website.camvillages@gmail.com</a> and she will get back to you and talk you through.

# Opening our churches for public worship

There will be no services in the churches of the Team this week, but work is going on to assess the steps we need to take to gradually resume public worship in our buildings over the next few weeks. we are planning to continue with Zoom and YouTube services for the time being and very much hope that everyone will be able to find a way of joining in worship in a way which suits their individual needs. Keep an eye on the websites for the latest news.

# **NEWS**

**PARISH OFFICE** The Parish Office is still closed but is contactable by telephone and email as usual.

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. To view the service, you will need to click on the following link:

https://www.churchofengland.org/aby98 which will be live just before 11am.