



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter Christ the King- 26th November 2023

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

I think that the little book was called “100 hymns for today” – I’m pretty sure that there was another “100 more hymns for today” as well. *Today* in this context was the early 1980s I expect, so I don’t know how many of the hymns in those books have survived in regular use. I will have to hunt around, there is almost certainly a copy here somewhere, and they may be full of gems, but the only one that I really remember is “When I needed a neighbour.”

When I needed a neighbour, were you there? The hymn was a real challenge, even as a child in assembly. Apart from anything else, our nearest neighbour lived almost a mile away, our neighbours in the farming sense were further still. But in a rural community, we certainly understood about people ‘being there’ for one another. But for some reason I heard this hymn as a personal challenge – *were YOU there? Was I* there for people who needed help, with clothing, food, friendship? The honest answer then, as now, was probably “sometimes, up to a point, on a good day” Then as now, it’s sometimes easy to get distracted from the needs of our neighbours – however far away they may live – by our own needs, wants and relationships. Sometimes there simply seems to be so much need that it’s tough to know where we should help.

The hymn doesn’t go on to explain the consequences of being there or not. Perhaps threats of eternal fire didn’t scan. Instead, in the final verse, Jesus speaks to us, reminding us that wherever we travel, whatever our needs, He will be there for us. A reminder that we too get to be neighbours in need. A reminder that in our efforts to support our neighbours, we are not alone.

I think that I may have guaranteed myself an earworm today – I will be ‘needing a neighbour’ for a few hours anyway. I hope that it’s not just the tune that sticks with me, and that the words sink in too.

Whether you find yourself being there for a neighbour or being helped this week – or both - may the knowledge that Jesus is there with us through it all support and help you.

With every blessing, Anne

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Family and Community News



St Martin's Christmas Fair

Saturday November 25th
11am - 2pm

Grand Draw Bottle Tombola
Cakes, chutneys etc;
Books Crafts;
Father Christmas Refreshments;
Christmas Decorations and gifts

HEREFORD CITY SCOUT POST 2023

Only 45p per card – Delivery within Hereford city

Collection Point 2nd & 9th December

High Town – Between Bull & Old House

Collection points – 2nd & 3rd December & 9th & 10th December

Tesco Belmont Ross Road (by Mayberry Avenue, 22nd Hereford)

Putson Shops (by Stokes, 22nd Hereford) St Martins Church Hall

The Scout Hut Blackmarston Road

Daily collections until Tuesday 12th December during opening times

St Martins Church Office – Newton Farm Information Centre

The Library Friar Street – Mailes Butcher the Butter Market

The Town Hall (Tourist Information)

All cards delivered by 22nd December

More info - www.hfdscouts.org.uk or FB - Hereford City Scout Post

Or phone 07786078617

Services at Belmont Community Centre

If you live in or near Belmont and find the journey to St Martin's difficult, or if Sunday mornings are not easy for you, you might like to join us for Friday Communion at Belmont Community Centre.

We celebrate a said service of Holy Communion at 12:30pm on the Second and Fourth Fridays of each month, following FoodShare. Everyone is very welcome to this service. The hall has level access and good ventilation – and if the weather is good we celebrate outside.

The next services at Belmont are: 12.30pm Holy Communion – 8th & 22nd December

Toastie and Warm at St Martin's

On Tuesday afternoons the Narthex at St Martin's is a busy and welcoming space.

From 1pm there is a Bible Study group, all welcome.

From 2pm there is a coffee afternoon, full of conversations and information, with chocolate biscuits and, usually, home-made cakes.

Everyone is welcome to come along to any – or all – parts of the afternoon.

The Bishop is launching an appeal to raise funds for clothing for asylum seekers residing at the 3 Counties Hotel – he is hoping to provide each guest with a £25 voucher. Donations can be left at St Martin's or in the office in an envelope marked "Three Counties Appeal". Many thanks to those who have already supported the appeal.

Catching up with friends – or making new ones!

Young at Heart - First Thursday of each month – Pub Lunch (contact the office so that we can book the table)

Third Thursday of each month at 2pm – Meeting in St. Martin's Church – talks, games, refreshments and friendship – everyone welcome!

THAT'S *SOME*
SURVEILLANCE
SYSTEM...



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG



I'M JUST SAYIN'!



MATTHEW 25:31-46



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For our Prayers

Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:

James	Joan	Paul	Sheila	Ann W	Brenda B	Sue
Brooke	Christina	Betty	Mandy	Hazel	Barry	Julie

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Joyce..	Joseph..	Gillian..	Richard	David	Judith
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Anglican Communion:

The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

Hereford:

Ross and Archenfield Deanery.

Porvoo:

Scotland: St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane; Finland: Porvoo (Borgå).

South Wye: Please pray for the homeless and vulnerably housed as the weather turns wintery.

The Wider View:

Pray for all in our world impacted by natural disasters, severe weather and the changes caused by global warming, especially where this is worsened by political unrest, ethnic or cultural divisions and corruption.

This Week Andrew, whose day is Thursday, is sometimes called the first missionary, having brought his brother Simon Peter to Jesus. Pray for the Church in mission today, at home and worldwide.

Decembeard, starting this week, raises awareness of bowel cancer. Pray for all who have this disease, giving thanks for advances in diagnosis and treatment, and praying for continued research.

Saturday is the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - pray for decisive action by governments and agencies against those who perpetrate modern slavery in its various forms.

Pray for charity events in the run-up to Christmas, such as choirs and bands performing in shopping malls, charity Christmas concerts and sponsored activities like Santa runs. Pray that people will be generous with their giving despite the impact of inflation.

Pray for road safety at this dark and cold time of the year, and that all who walk or cycle our lanes may be able to do so safely.

Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio

For the week beginning 26th November 2023

South Wye Services Through the Week:

8pm Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's Facebook page

Sunday

9:30am Holy Communion at St. Martin's

11.15am Holy Communion at St. Peter's

Thursday

10am Said Communion in St. Martin's Lady Chapel

The 9.30am service will be streamed on St. Martin's Facebook page and will be available on the St. Martin's and the St. Peter's Facebook pages and the St. Martin's YouTube channel later in the day.

Diocese of Hereford

Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.

Diocese Freephone Prayerline: Dial 0800 304 7052 to hear a prayer.

Church of England

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

TV and Radio on Sunday;

BBC H&W 8am Sunday Worship.

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship- King's College Chapel, Aberdeen

BBC 1 1.15pm Songs of Praise- Young Chorister of the Year- Senior Semi-Final

Prayer for the day: The Church of England website has audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

Prayer for the Nation The Archbishops continue to invite all to call on God in Prayer. We invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. Find more details at churchengland.org/resources/prayer-nation

Collect for Christ the King

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen.

Readings for Christ the King

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²² I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³ I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Psalm 95: 1-7

¹ O come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³ For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,

and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

Ephesians 1: 15-end

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Matthew 25: 31-end

³¹ 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Bible Study based on Matthew 25: 31-end

Bible notes

This reading may leave us feeling a little uncomfortable. But the readings throughout Matthew 25 have all been travelling in this direction. Are we ready to face the Son of Man on his return? The problem in the 21st century is that we've been waiting for 2,000 years and nothing seems to have happened or changed. First, remember that this is a parable – a story to help us understand something, rather than a description of an event. Second, the key to the story is verse 40 The measure of true faith is not the heart alone, but the body too. As James says, faith without deeds is dead (James 2:14-26). What we do, the way we live, is the outward sign of the inner truth of our faith, and makes our true identity visible to everyone. It is too easy to internalise faith as merely belief. But true belief shapes and forms who we are and what we do. It demands a lifestyle that gives body to our faith. The parable picks up on an image that Jesus' hearers would have understood – of judgement as a courtroom drama with God as the judge. But like all parables, even though the scenario may be familiar, it changes before our eyes. Judgement is not based on the obvious: how religious are you? The point is not that we find salvation for ourselves, but that salvation is given to us. Indeed, it is offered to all. And it is all about Christ the King, how we live as Jesus' subjects, and how we serve him in our daily lives.

Reflection

Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.

Judgement is just as much about being declared innocent and set free as being condemned. How can we show freedom as Jesus' loyal subjects? Should we think more about the way we ought to live as Christians (generosity to others, seeing the best in others, etc.)? How can we share our blessings to clothe the naked or feed the hungry (vv.41-46)? What practical steps or acts of kindness are called for? How can we assess the nature of our faith (and do we)? But remember that this is a parable about Christ the King, the one who reigns, the one whose kingship is made real in the lives of his subjects. We are not alone in our endeavours.

Questions for reflection

You may wish to use these questions and the picture to help you think about or discuss issues arising from this week's Bible passage.



Questions

- How would it make you feel to receive a gift like this?
- What do your actions, individually or as a church, reveal about you?
- In a modern and local version of Jesus' parable, who would the people in need be?

Sudoku (Easier!)

						3	1	6
	9							8
6			3				7	
	7			8	4			
	6		2		7			1
1		4					2	
8							4	9
	3	6				1		
	2	7						3

		1	4					
	4		7	6		3		2
3	5	2				4		
				4				5
		7			2		9	
		3	9					
			6	3	1			
					7			
7		9	2	5				

9	2	7	8	4	1	5	6	3
4	3	6	5	7	9	1	8	2
8	1	5	6	3	2	7	4	9
1	5	4	9	6	3	8	2	7
3	6	8	2	5	7	4	9	1
2	7	9	1	8	4	6	3	5
6	8	1	3	2	5	9	7	4
7	9	3	4	1	6	2	5	8
5	4	2	7	9	8	3	1	6

7	6	9	2	5	4	8	3	1
1	3	4	8	9	7	5	2	6
8	2	5	6	3	1	7	4	9
5	1	3	9	7	6	2	8	4
4	8	7	5	1	2	6	9	3
2	9	6	3	4	8	1	7	5
3	5	2	1	8	9	4	6	7
9	4	8	7	6	5	3	1	2
6	7	1	4	2	3	9	5	8

Trickier!

1					8			
5		8	6					
		7					9	
	1		4		9	7		
4				6		5		
		9						3
		4	1		6			
6		1	9	8			5	
3	8			5				

						5	2	
2			1			3	6	
				6			8	
6	5		7	8		9		
	8	2	3				5	
9			5					
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						7		
5	6		8			4	9	

1	4	6	3	9	8	2	7	5
5	9	8	6	7	2	1	3	4
2	3	7	5	4	1	6	9	8
8	1	5	4	3	9	7	2	6
4	2	3	8	6	7	5	1	9
7	6	9	2	1	5	8	4	3
9	5	4	1	2	6	3	8	7
6	7	1	9	8	3	4	5	2
3	8	2	7	5	4	9	6	1

1	3	6	4	9	8	5	2	7
2	9	8	1	5	7	3	6	4
4	7	5	2	6	3	1	8	9
6	5	1	7	8	2	9	4	3
7	8	2	3	4	9	6	5	1
9	4	3	5	1	6	2	7	8
3	2	9	6	7	4	8	1	5
8	1	4	9	2	5	7	3	6
5	6	7	8	3	1	4	9	2

Wordsearch based on Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

U	J	H	I	B	H	X	R	E	S	C	U	E	D	H
M	U	G	L	K	P	Q	H	X	S	S	G	P	E	C
W	S	N	L	E	C	L	P	C	K	M	M	S	H	R
S	T	I	G	E	V	O	A	D	S	X	O	H	S	A
F	I	Z	I	S	K	T	U	C	Q	I	U	E	U	E
L	C	A	Y	G	T	L	J	N	E	O	N	E	P	S
O	E	R	M	E	A	U	J	Y	T	S	T	P	T	A
C	H	G	R	N	D	C	S	H	M	R	A	M	D	M
K	P	E	D	G	X	G	V	C	I	N	I	T	B	O
S	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	I	J	N	E	F	N
M	I	G	A	T	H	E	R	M	S	A	S	P	S	G
E	K	C	I	H	T	Q	A	J	V	S	G	F	J	B
I	U	U	T	H	I	L	T	R	C	F	L	A	N	K
T	N	K	M	T	S	R	E	C	L	O	U	D	S	Y
O	S	E	R	U	T	S	A	P	A	L	E	A	N	O

SEARCH
JUSTICE
GATHER
AMONG
ANIMALS

PLACES
SEEK
FLANK
LAND
RESCUE

PASTURES
THICK
FLOCKS
LEAN
GRAZING

SHEEP
PUSHED
COUNTRIES
SCATTERED
SERVANT

CLOUDS
SHEPHERDS
JUDGE
MOUNTAINS