



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

14th July 2024 - 7th Sunday after Trinity

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

I don't listen to or watch nearly as many news programmes as I used to. Starting the day by yelling at the radio began to get wearing, so now I don't tend to get more than the headlines until later in the day. But even to a casual observer, this Sunday's Gospel reading, combined with recent news stories and events, seem to prove that very little about human nature has changed in 2000 years. Jesus is becoming well known. He has never claimed to be anyone or anything other than what he is. So obviously the influencers and commentators of the day are busy speculating without any particular basis on who he might be. The facts are not going to get in the way of a good gossip. And a powerful man, maybe full of guilt and regret over some very public bad behaviour, buys into this talk.

And the story of John's death, told in flashback, is horribly full of behaviour and motivations that we can recognise. A ruler thinks that his position of power means that the regular rules of relationships and morality don't apply to him. A rich woman responds badly to being called out for her behaviour. A courageous man is prepared to speak truth to power – and it goes badly for him. We don't have to look very hard to see these stories playing out today.

Imagine what the tabloids would make of the banquet that Herod holds for his own birthday, attended by courtiers and provincial leaders. The princess who dances (we think of her as Salome, but she's not named in the account) seems to be designed for tiktok.. A king, carried away by the party, the dancing, the audience, has made a spontaneous – and stupid – promise and his pride will stop him backing down. A woman seizes her moment to get revenge on the truth telling man who spoke out. She's going to silence him this time. Cruelty and sickening violence are used to get rid of a troublesome opponent. All very 21st century.

So many things about human life have improved over two millennia – dentistry, antibiotics, smoke free interior lighting – but some parts of human nature have not. We may not be demanding that other people are decapitated – but gossip, jealousy, intemperance, pride, cruelty are still there. And can all be risks for each of us, not just the famous and powerful and rich. But other things have remained unchanged too – hope and kindness and goodness for example.

The fact that this story still shocks us, that the violence on today's news shocks and appals us, shows us that not every jealous thought ends in bloodshed, that pride and cruelty can be overcome. Hope still triumphs. Even violent death is not the end of the story – some of the people who were speculating about Jesus' identity would also be able to be witnesses to his resurrection. When we find ourselves shouting at the news, bemoaning the latest examples of human cruelty and pride, I hope that we can also remember that promise and hope. It doesn't have to be like this – and in Jesus Christ we can know that change is possible.

With every blessing, Anne
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rector@stmartinshereford.org.uk

Family and Community News

St. Martin's Summer Fete!

Saturday, 20th July 12-2pm

Raffle, Refreshments, Bric-a-Brac and more!!

Toastie and Warm at St Martin's

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.

Making Room is a new initiative based at St Martin's which, whilst it will not offer any formal professional mental health treatment, will offer a safe space to express any worries you may have. *Making Room* is intended for people of working age, and is about making room to have safe discussions about our mental wellness, making room to support one another, making room for mindfulness and to start or share any hobbies and interests and making room to offer hope. If you are interested in joining us please contact us and we can discuss plans further. If you wish to volunteer equally please do get in touch. *Rev'd Lauren Bell* curate@stmartinshereford.org.uk 07429 862444

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 – 12th & 26th July

Catching up with friends – or making new ones!

Young at Heart - First Thursday of each month – Lunch at the Wye Inn (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!

WOW, HEROD IS A TRAIN
WRECK! HE REALLY
THINKS JESUS IS JOHN
BACK FROM THE DEAD?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

SO IT
SEEMS.



HEROD MAKES A MESS
OF THINGS, BUT GOD'S
WORD WILL NOT BE SILENCED.
IT WILL HAVE ITS WAY, EVEN
WHEN YOU'VE LOST YOUR WAY.



OR YOUR HEAD!



MARK 6:14-29

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For our Prayers

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

Bill	James	Joan	Paul	Sheila	Ann W	Brenda B
Sue	Brooke	Christina	Betty	Mandy	Michael G	

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Christopher.. Raymond.. Terence.. Brian.. Derek Bill

Anglican Communion: The Church of Ireland - Most Revd John McDowell, Primate of All Ireland.

Hereford: Pray for our outreach to families and young people, and for those within the local church who lead or help organise Messy Church, Muddy Church, Forest Church, Open the Book and other activities and worship events with children, young people and families in mind. Pray also for traditional “children’s church” alongside main Sunday services, and for those involved in leading, and for teams working within local schools.

Neil Patterson is installed as residentiary canon and Vice Dean at Bristol Cathedral.

“Celebrating Creativity in Our Community”, a service at Leominster Priory.

Porvoo: England: Newcastle, Norway: Møre,

South Wye: Please pray for those travelling through the benefice, for work or holiday

The Wider View:

Pray for all who are training for the ordained ministry at St Marks College in Dar es Salaam, and for continued support from within our Diocese for this important work.

Wednesday is the world Day of International Criminal Justice, marking the anniversary of the Rome Statute adopted in 1998. The day aims to unite all who support justice and work to prevent crimes that threaten peace, security and well-being in our world. Pray for those places where the rule of law is flawed, misused or effectively absent, and for all who are unjustly imprisoned.

“St Swithun's Day, if it do rain, full forty days, it will remain. St Swithun's Day, if it be fair, for forty days, t'will rain no more.” So the rhyme goes - Monday is the day of Swithun, Bishop of Winchester in the 9th Century, and the legend may prompt prayer for those who forecast the weather, and for those whose work is weather-dependant, including farmers and growers. Pray for all who are planning and preparing summer fetes and other community events at this time, and for all whose fund raising efforts play an important part in sustaining our churches, charities and community organisations.

Give thanks for all who bring music and drama to our local communities - for local choirs, am-dram groups, folk bands etc, and for touring companies visiting village halls, churches etc to perform. Pray too for all who help foster and encourage a love of art, music and drama among the young.

As the school year ends, pray for those families that will struggle to afford a holiday away, and for those children who may face neglect while schools are closed. Pray for churches and community groups planning and preparing summer activities for children and families.

July is kept as Good Care Month, with the aim of celebrating all kinds of kind and caring acts, and honouring those who care for others. Pray for our residential and care homes, for those who care in the community, and for all who need to receive care and support from others. As the new government takes office, pray that the provision of effective care in the community may be a priority for attention and funding.

Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio For the week beginning 14th July

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 Family Service 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.

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- Voices from the Borders

BBC 1 1.15pm Songs of Praise- Hidden Gems

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 7th Sunday after Trinity

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for 7th Sunday after Trinity

Amos 7: 7-15

⁷ This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. ⁸ And the LORD said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.' Then the Lord said,

'See, I am setting a plumb-line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.'

¹⁰ Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹ For thus Amos has said,

"Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land."

¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, 'O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.'

¹⁴ Then Amos answered Amaziah, 'I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵ and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

Psalm 85: 8-13

⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

¹² The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

Ephesians 1: 3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Mark 6: 14-29

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' ¹⁵But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' ²³And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.



Bible Study based on Mark 6: 14-29

Bible notes

This passage is a departure from Mark's usual narrative style; there is none of the breathy storytelling pace, full of 'and then...immediately'. This is a longer story told in retrospect.

It begins with Herod's guilty conscience. Even the mention of Jesus' amazing ministry immediately makes Herod think that John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. In Herod's troubled mind, at least, there is no escape from John. What follows is a tortuous backstory of self-interest, violence and abuse. It is a clash of spiritual and temporal power. Herod is manipulated into an execution because Herodias is determined to destroy John. She no doubt wanted to eliminate the questions he was raising over her place within the royal household. She is utterly ruthless in making use of her own daughter to request John's head.

Herod comes across as weak and vacillating: he was indecisive when listening to John's preaching; pig-headed when it came to keeping a rashly made vow. He comes across as the victim of his own whims and feelings, rather than someone who makes decisions based on principles or values.

The role of Herodias' daughter (traditionally known as Salome, from the account in Josephus) has sometimes been interpreted as that of a Mata Hari temptress, choosing to be part of her mother's plot. It makes more sense to see her as an abused minor, the victim of her mother and her stepfather, who is also her uncle.

Reflection

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

Herod's relationship with John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, is intriguing. In many ways, Herod behaved like a modern-day populist leader – he was rash, whimsical and keen to please: which undoubtedly resulted in John's beheading. Where was the wise counsel to Herod to steer him from such folly? His wife and her daughter clearly did not have his best interests at heart when it came to advice. While we do not hold the power of life and death in our hands, we all make decisions from time to time. To whom do we turn for guidance? If to friends or colleagues, how do we know whether or not they are advising us wisely? Do we ask God to give us the wisdom to do the right thing? How do we know what is right?

Questions for reflection

You may wish to use these questions and the picture to help you think about or discuss issues of sharing.

- If one falls over, all will – what parts of life sometimes feel like that?
- What or who influences – or perhaps rules – your thoughts and actions?
- How do we make sure that God has a say in our key decisions?



Sudoku (Easier!)

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

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

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

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

Trickier!

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

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

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

Wordsearch based on Psalm 85: 8-13

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

HEAR
PEACE
LAND
SPRING

HAND
GLORY
TURN
GROUND

SKY
YIELD
LOVE
PATH

SPEAK
PEOPLE
HEARTS
LOOK

FEAR
DWELL
KISS
FAITHFUL

GOOD
STEPS
SURELY
SALVATION