



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

8th September 2024

15th Sunday after Trinity

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

If this has been a 'back to school' week for you, I hope that all went well. And it's not just youngsters who have big changes this week. Families, of course, and school staff, but also taxi drivers and their passengers, shop staff and many others will also be celebrating or bemoaning the effects of the new term. It's a useful reminder of the degree to which we are knitted together as a community, in ways that can be unexpected or complex. A decision made more than a year ago about the start date for the new academic year has affected the working day of retail staff dealing with the rush of children and parents shopping on the way home from school. We cannot always know the impact of our choices and decisions, whether large or small, or how far the ripples may spread from a casually thrown pebble.

The woman in Sunday's Gospel reading would probably have been astonished if she could have known that we would still be telling the story of her encounter with Jesus 20 centuries later (she would probably be less astonished that we don't know her name.) And she is not simply remembered as another parent begging Jesus for healing for a loved child. She robustly challenges Jesus when he (quite rudely) suggests that God's grace might not be available to her or her people. And something in her response makes a difference. Something changes and Jesus heals her daughter – wonderful in itself, but also as a sign of another change. From now on there is no doubt that God's grace is for all people, available to everyone.

Our lives as Christians are, in part, a legacy of that mother's words, handed down to us. Her confidence that Jesus' love would heal her daughter, and that God's grace was available to them and their community – to all communities – changed history. When we speak about our faith, when we talk about Jesus, our words have an impact. We may not ever know the difference that they make, but we can be sure that they do. What are we saying? Who are we telling?

With every blessing, Anne
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Family and Community News

OUR QUILTY PLEASURE

An Exhibition of Family Quilts

A fundraising event for St. Martin's Church, Ross Rd, Hereford

Saturday September 7th. 10-4

Sunday September 8th. 11-4

Admission £5 to include

Tea/coffee and cake

Children under 12 free

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.

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!

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 – 13th & 27th September

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	Jesusa	Chris

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Michael & Geoffrey R. Brenda H Rob

Anglican Communion:

The Province of Myanmar (Burma).

Hereford:

All who visit our churches as tourists, pilgrims, visiting family graves or researching their history. As we tell the story of the past history of our churches, may we also be able to present our buildings as places where a living, serving and welcoming faith for today is centred.

Porvoo:

England: Salisbury; Wales: St Asaph.

South Wye:

Please pray for pet owners and dog walkers across the benefice.

The Wider View:

Give thanks for the involvement of schools and young people in our links with the church in Nuremberg.

Pray for our schools and colleges as the new educational year gets under way. Pray for those starting at new schools, and those soon to begin university courses, many of whom may be leaving home for the first time. Pray for chaplains and all who offer care and support.

Pray for a revival of modern language teaching in our schools, and for the exploration of links and visit opportunities.

Fairtrade Fortnight begins this week. Pray for a greater awareness of Fairtrade goods, and for Fairtrade's vision of a world in which trade is based on fairness, and producers can earn secure and sustainable livelihoods.

In Air Ambulance Week pray for those who staff and provide this vital service, and that the voluntary support that enables this service to continue may be maintained.

Pray for all who live with eczema, and especially for children with this disease; pray for awareness, treatment and research.

Pray for Young Farmers' Clubs, encouraging fellowship, building skills and confidence in young people, and helping ensure that young people remain within the agricultural community and industry.

This week ends with Holy Cross Day. Give thanks that the ultimate sign of shame and defeat is instead made a throne, and the place where victory is won over all that enslaves us.

Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio

For the week beginning 8th September

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 Morning Prayer 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-The Call of Religious Life

BBC 1 2.15pm Songs of Praise-Crathie Kirk: Mountains and Majesty

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 15th Sunday after Trinity

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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.

Readings for 15th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 35: 4-7a

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

Psalm 146

1 Alleluia. Praise the Lord, O my soul: while I live will I praise the Lord; ♦
as long as I have any being, I will sing praises to my God.

2 *Put not your trust in princes, nor in any human power, ♦ for there is no help in them.*

3 When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth; ♦ on that day all their thoughts perish.

4 *Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, ♦ whose hope is in the Lord their God;*

5 Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; ♦ who keeps his promise for ever;

6 *Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong ♦ and bread to those who hunger.*

7 The Lord looses those that are bound; ♦ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

8 *The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; ♦ the Lord loves the righteous;*

9 The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow; ♦
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

10 *The Lord shall reign for ever, ♦ your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia.*

James 2: 1-10, 14-17

2 My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? 2 For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, 3 and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? 7 Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

8 You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' 9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? 17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Mark 7: 24-37

24 From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, 25 but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. 26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' 28 But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' 29 Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' 30 So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

31 Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. 32 They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. 33 He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. 34 Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' 35 And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. 36 Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. 37 They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'



Bible Study based on James 2: 1-10, 14-17

Bible notes

James continues his moral teaching in the Old Testament wisdom literature tradition. Believing that Jesus is the crucified, resurrected and ascended Lord is the central tenet of the Jewish (and Gentile) Christians. It is what sets them free from the guilt of the Law. Yet James is not convinced that their pattern of behaviour, especially their judgement about others, matches their beliefs. Favouritism is a sin. It's neither hospitality, respect nor honour. Preferential treatment sets the culture within the assembly; it treats the unjust and their injustices as acceptable and righteous, while treating the poor, who are rich in faith and custodians of the kingdom, with disrespect and disregard. This is the opposite of Christ's intention.

James' readers understood the problem with the Law – when one element is broken, the whole system falls down. There is credit for obeying the royal law (as expressed in Mark 12:30-31), but since favouritism and prejudice are sins, they undermine the good deed. The corrosiveness and impact of favouritism and bias make them no lesser sins than adultery and murder. Therefore, they must speak and act as being accountable to God.

These verses are a test of genuine faith. James' ambition for the Church is to see tangible evidence of God working through the believer and with the poor. Therefore, he challenges Paul's counsel (Galatians 3:1-9). Faith without works achieves nothing, it is dead. If we believe in Christ, we must show it through our lives.

Reflection

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

'We welcome all'. It's easy to say but do we really? James' teaching is a judgement call on all who show favouritism within the Christian community. God's kingdom is for all peoples. Are there people we knowingly exclude or have we become a clique? What barriers to others do we create as a Christian community? Consider physical obstacles, actions, language, the structure and tradition of worship. Encourage the congregation to put themselves in the shoes of others. What would they see and feel if they were walking into church for the first time today? What barriers would they face? What would make the church more welcoming?



Questions *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.*

- What kinds of people do you tend to ignore?
- Is your head ever turned by riches or beauty?
- What one thing could you do today to 'love your neighbour as yourself'?

Sudoku (Easier!)

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

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

Trickier!

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

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

Wordsearch based on Isaiah 35: 1-7a

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

FEARFUL
JOY
DEAF
RECOMPENSE
SPRINGS

BLIND
STRONG
WATERS
LAME
EYES

TONGUE
EARS
VENGEANCE
STREAMS
DEER

HEART
SING
UNSTOPPED
SAVE
RUSHES

OPENED
FEAR
BREAK
LEAP