

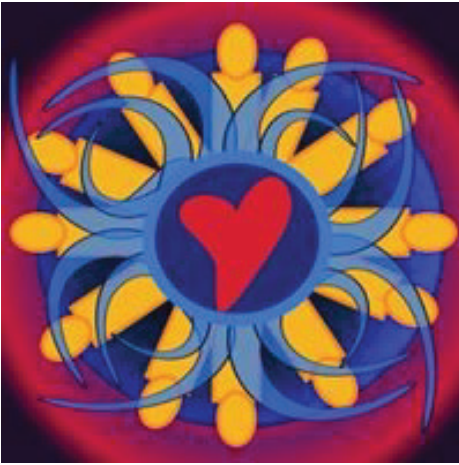
The Smestow Vale Team Ministry

St. John's and St. Michael's

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 14th June

Trinity 1



God of Truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in the way of wisdom,
that we may find true life

Paul writes about the way of discipleship.

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

Romans 5.1–8

St Matthew names the twelve disciples.

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 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.

Matthew 9.35 – 10.8

A Reflection for Trinity from Charmaine Host

When Jesus 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.

Matthew 9:36

Jesus was a great storyteller; he knew that the power of a good story could change lives. But in today's gospel reading he is not telling a story; he is describing the reality he sees before him. Jesus looks with compassion at the crowds, harassed and helpless, and he asks his disciples to imagine a new story and themselves as story tellers. When we live in a story that seems to determine the future there is a danger that we will feel trapped thinking that things can never change. That can be true of our own personal life stories. Crowds that are harassed

and helpless are becoming a feature of our time. Whether protesting Covid 19 lockdown or the more recent 'Black Lives Matter', we see crowds of people who are angry and harassed because they feel helpless and when we feel helpless, we feel vulnerable and unable to control anything within our world. This in turn engenders resentment and rage. Perhaps this is what lies behind the Black Lives Matter movement; when the story of a people is one of discrimination and oppression it is time that this story was heard and changed. It is a tale as old as the Bible itself, the book of Exodus tells a story of a people in slavery who are finally delivered into freedom through divine activity.

The story Jesus wants his disciples to recall, is that we are called to be kingdom partners with God and with his authority to be a healing presence amid confusion. Not pretending we have all the answers but neither failing in our call to pray and share peace. St. Paul writes about this in the New Testament reading, he speaks of the peace we have with God because of the work of Jesus and with this we are reminded that our story has been rewritten.

Our stories have been caught up in the story of God in his world. Vs. 5: 'His love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.' We can be part of the stories of others with that same good news.

Zoom latest.

Around 20 of us are still meeting on Sunday morning at 10am for a service via Zoom. It is an encouraging point of contact for us all in these lockdown times. If you would like to try it out then please join us and let the office or me know so that I can send an invitation. You would be most welcome.

Rev Charmaine

Prayer During the Week

Sunday

Pray for those who, in our time, are sent out to proclaim the Good News. (Matthew 10: 7)

Monday

Pray for the ministry of caring within our congregations.

Tuesday

Pray for openness and inclusiveness within the Church.

Wednesday

Pray that the world economies will quickly recover when the virus is gone.

Thursday

Pray that social distancing and other precautions will continue to be observed.

Friday

Pray for a gradual return to normal life in the coming weeks.

Saturday

Pray for those who have been in total seclusion as they start to venture out.

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers

Sarah Stephenson, David Kingston, Lisa, Julia McCormick, Morgan, Michael Concannon, Heather Gent, Jean, Hazel Gillam, Margaret Hatton, Margaret Ward, Joy Waistell

Those who have died

Beryl Simcox, Jim Harris, Emily Preece, Dorothy Godwin, Donald Wadeley and Thelma Cooper.

Sunday Worship

Thank you to Preb Ben from Penn for all the help with last Sunday's service Don't forget you can both like and share. There will be a service led by Paul on Facebook this Sunday from 10.30am. This week Sue Watson will be leading the reflection and Sarah Malpas will lead the prayers. Thank you to Tony Bridgewater for the piano Music last Sunday.

Share the Good News

You are very welcome to share Keeping in Touch with others. If you know of anyone who would like it emailing to them direct please let Maxine know.

Sunday Worship for Trinity 1 10.45am BBC 1

Please join in prayer and worship on Sunday Morning A service from Holy Trinity Platt Church in Manchester, led by Sarah Bradley, youth and children's minister. The preacher is Rev Dr Paul Mathole. The service includes songs and hymns recorded by Songs of Praise in 2017.

Stewardship Envelopes

Thank you to everyone who is saving up their weekly Stewardship Envelopes. They are important to us as despite very careful management we still have bills to pay.

St Benedict's Open for Private Prayer

We are hoping that St Benedict's will be open for private prayer from Monday. Special arrangements will be put in place and it is important that we maintain 2m social distancing.

