

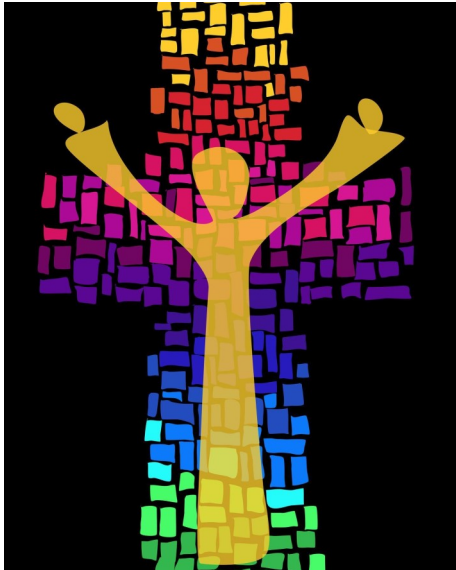
The Smestow Vale Team Ministry

St John's and St Michael's

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 10th October 2021

Trinity 19



Faithful Lord,
whose steadfast love never ceases
and whose mercies never come to an end:
grant us the grace to trust you
and to receive the gifts of your love
new every morning
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:12-end

Jesus meets and Lawyer with a question.

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who

have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Mark 10:17-31

A Reflection on our Gospel from Susan Williams

A phrase that catches our attention in today's gospel is, 'Jesus, looking at him, loved him...' We remember too, that after Peter had denied Jesus, 'The Lord turned and looked at Peter' (Luke 22:61) Again, surely he looked at him and loved him. Before working in Nigeria, we trained at Selly Oak Colleges, where our Warden, (who became the Bishop of Coventry), would frequently remind us of how deeply we are loved by God. Other things would come and go in the Christian life, but we were always to hold on to that. Jesus' response to the 'rich young ruler,' (Matthew and Luke) arises out of love, not condemnation.

On one level the young man lacks nothing. But his question to Jesus indicates that he himself feels a lack in his life. If he did not, why would he enquire about eternal life? Jesus confirms, 'You lack one thing; go and sell what you own, and give the money to the poor.' But the man wanted to be told that he could keep all his possessions and receive eternal life.* Keeping what he has is more important to him than gaining what he lacks -the freedom to give away his wealth. A Lichfield Diocesan leaflet is entitled, 'Giving is good for you.' Compared with so many people in the world, I am rich, so Jesus' words apply to me. He says quite plainly how hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God, but also re-assures his disciples that all things are possible for God. Hebrews 4 says, 'We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses.' I need to approach the throne of grace to 'receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.' And whatever I can to relieve the needs of the poor, that also I must do.

Susan

*Dr Paula Gooder

Prayer During the Week.

Sunday

Pray that we will not let our possessions come between us and God (Mark 10: 23)

Monday

Pray for the victims of cyclone Shaheen in Oman and Iran.

Tuesday

Pray for the people of La Palma, still suffering from volcanic eruptions.

Wednesday

Pray for relationships between North and South Korea now communications have been restored.

Thursday

Pray for distribution problems to be sorted out.

Friday

Pray for those fearing their inability to pay heating bills this winter.

Saturday

Pray for civil peace in India after violent protests in Uttar Pradesh.

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers

Joy Waistell, Sarah Aldridge, Geoff Truby, Ann and Barrie Taylor, and Olga Barrow-Collins.

Those who have died

John Shepherd, Mary Dean, Kevin Brooks and Andrew Peake

Please send requests for prayer to the Parish Office

This weeks Services
St Michael's 11.00am Parish Communion
St Johns 9.30am Parish Communion
St Johns 3.00pm Baptism

Pastoral Visitors

Our Course for those who are thinking about Pastoral visiting continues this Tuesday at 7.30pm at St Benedict's.

Sue Watson

Sue sends her thanks and best wishes to everyone Who sent a card and contributed to her retirement present.

Day Spring

Dayspring our group for the single bereaved restarts on Monday afternoon at the Venerable Bede. New members welcome.

Prayer Group

Wednesday 13th at 7.00pm at All Saints Trysull.

Covid 19 Guidance

From next Sunday 17th October it will no longer be necessary to book for our services. Thank you to Hilary who has organised our booking system for the last 18 months.

