

REFLECTIONS

Calling attention to another person's faults is always fraught with danger for both parties and can easily result in broken relationships that may never heal. Those of a critical persuasion can cause havoc in a church through their eagerness to point out others' failings. The harm done may not be lessened by adding the remark: 'Of course, I tell you this in love brother!' However, there are times when things cannot be left unsaid. Here the text gives us a three-fold pattern to follow: firstly person to person contact, if necessary involve two or three witnesses, before finally going to the Church as a whole, if matters are unresolved. An essential element that is missing here is the need to practise constant forgiveness. This is addressed in the verses that follow this reading as Jesus lays out the Christian disciple's obligation to go on forgiving again and again, seventy times seven times.

In our epistle reading Paul focusses on the centrality of love for our neighbours: 'Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.' (Romans 13.8) These are not just warm words, they require practical action, which in Paul's eyes will fulfill much of the purpose for which the Law was given. There is an urgency about Paul's appeal, because none of us knows how long we have left, whether that be because of the Lord's return or our own final departure. There is no time like the present for showing love in action.

I wonder...

What would it mean for me to daily 'clothe myself with the Lord Jesus Christ' (cf. Romans 13.14, NIV translation)? How will that affect my attitudes and actions?

Andy Colebrooke

**THIS WEEK'S SERVICES
SUNDAY IN CHURCH**

St Marys, 8.00am Holy Communion 1662
Saffron Walden President: Andy Colebrooke
-do- 6.30pm H2H Youth Led Service Leader: Matt Williamson
Hadstock 9.30am Family Service Leader: Paula Griffiths
Ashdon 9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren
Wimbish 9.15am Service of the Word Leader: John Saxon

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ON ZOOM**SUNDAY**

9.30am Holy Communion President: Chris Bishop
11.00am Holy Communion President: John Saxon

TUESDAY

5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: Sue Walker

WEDNESDAY

9.30am Holy Communion Paula Griffiths

**NEXT SUNDAY 13th September 2020
SERVICES IN CHURCH**

St Marys 10am Holy Communion President: Michael Lovegrove
Sewards End 9.30am Holy Communion President: Chris Bishop
Little Walden 11.15am Family Service Leader: Tracey Nicholls
Hadstock 9.30am Holy Communion 1662 President: Paula Griffiths
Ashdon 9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren
Debden 9.15am Service of the Word Leader: John Saxon

The Grapevine

COVERING THE PARISHES OF SAFFRON WALDEN, WIMBISH,
DEBDEN, ASHDON AND HADSTOCK.

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
6th September 2020

Collect

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Romans 13.8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel: Matthew 18.15-20

Jesus spoke to his disciples. 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Post Communion

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



See St Mary's Church, SW, website at
www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org to find out more.

Please 'Like' our Facebook page so we reach more people! Click on the link on our website, or go to:
www.facebook.com/saintmaryschurchsaffronwalden

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Churches Together Prayer Cycle: In September please pray for: **Society of Friends, Saffron Walden, Chrishall School**

The family and friends of those who have died recently:

John King, Philip Holmes

Those who are unwell: **Pamela Bray**

Those whose wedding banns are being called at St Mary's, Saffron Walden: **Samuel Maguire and Laura Johnson**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I have it on good authority that the Chinese character for crisis is made up of two separate characters: one for danger and the other for opportunity. This has relevance for us on several levels as we face many crises today that require radical action, not least the sharp decline in church attendance in this country.

A book by Nick Page called *The Church Invisible* describes a sci-fi journey 40 years into the future where the hero wakes up in a Britain in which the Church has all but disappeared. It's a bleak vision which, of course, is really the author's critique of today's Church. An imaginary theologian closes each chapter with a commentary that ranges over current attendance to likely future models of church life. I was particularly struck by the fictional professor's hunch as to what would be the defining qualities of a church that might just make it into the future: small but powerful; passionately committed; based around relationships; lightly led; connected with life; missionary by default; full of creativity; engaged with the culture; unburdened by buildings; a place of refuge. It was thought provoking stuff even if I didn't agree with all its analyses and solutions.

A key piece of advice that gets sent back from the future is 'Love people until they ask why.' What a challenge! And it resonated for me with something remarkable that Justin Welby said in Chelmsford Cathedral some years ago: 'the church should always be engaged in doing things that make no sense if God does not exist'. To resolve to do such things would mean daring to cross social and cultural boundaries, thinking out of the box, and looking afresh at some of the things we take for granted.

All clergy are called 'to proclaim the gospel afresh in every generation' and all laity are called by their baptism to share in every aspect of that mission. This will inevitably mean much innovation, whilst not throwing the baby out with the bath water. Crisis can mean danger, but it can also bring opportunity for renewal and growth. If the Church in England takes this to heart it can, with God's grace, remain an agent for health in our addicted society. It may certainly look very different. To misquote Dr McCoy (of the real Star Trek!), time travellers will look and say 'It's the Church, Jim, but not as we know it.'

With love and prayers,
Andy Colebrooke

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Renew your Church, O Lord, for mission and service, and make it here and everywhere a living fellowship of the Spirit, revealing your love to the world, reconciling humanity to you and one another, and serving all who are in need, for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Frank Colquhoun (adapted)

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 7th	Morning Psalm 126 & Acts 10:34-end Evening Psalm 127
Tue 8th	Morning Psalm 132 & Acts 11:1-18 Evening Psalm 135 & Mark 8:22-26
Wed 9th	Morning Psalm 119:153-end & Acts 11:19-end Evening Psalm 136
Thurs 10th	Morning Psalm 143 & Acts 12:1-17 Evening Psalm 138
Fri 11th	Morning Psalm 144 & Acts 12:18-end Evening Psalm 145
Sat 12th	Morning Psalm 147 & Acts 13:1-12 Evening Psalm 148

NEWS

SERVICES IN CHURCH Details are listed on the back page. **It is now compulsory to wear a mask** unless you have an exemption.

Advance booking is required to attend St Mary's, SW as services are now close to capacity and we cannot guarantee that you will be able to enter the church if you haven't booked. Please book your place online using the link on the weekly bulletin or the website – alternatively, email or telephone the Parish Office before noon on the previous Friday, giving your name, telephone number and postcode.

No booking is required for the village churches but, if the service has reached capacity, you may not be able to enter.

PRIVATE PRAYER St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, is open for private prayer on Wednesday and Sunday 12-4. All Saints, Ashdon is open for private prayer on Wednesday and Sunday between 11am and 6.00pm.

ONLINE SERVICES are listed on the back page. Full joining details are available on the weekly email bulletin and on the website. Please email Dawn at office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org if you would like to be added to the bulletin distribution list.

LIVE WORSHIP by phone - you don't need a computer or tablet to join our services from home. If you would like to know more please contact Judith Hasler on 525041 or John Saxon on 541619

TRUST130 SCHEME Ecclesiastical Insurance, our church insurers, will donate £130 to St Mary's for each new home insurance policy taken out with them. They can be contacted on 03457 77322 or household@ecclesiastical.com Denis

PATRONAL FESTIVAL - 13th September There is to be an AGM of the Friends of St Mary's at 10.50 on the 13th. If you wish to attend please email or 'phone Dawn at parishoffice@stmaryssaffronwalden.org 01799 506024 with your details before 12 noon on Friday. If you are attending the 10.00 Holy Communion please still register for both. *Gill Caswell*

PCC MEETING A meeting of the PCC will be held on Zoom on **Wednesday 16th September** at 7:45pm.
Lisa Brook (PCC Secretary)

"A CHURCH NEAR YOU" This is a charming little book of sketches and comments on 46 local churches by Denis Dunstone, of St Mary the Virgin, Wendens Ambo. They are available in the Tourist Information office and sell at £10.00 and £7 goes to the PCC, thanks to the generosity of Denis Dunstone. *Joe Hordern*

LYNN TRENEARY'S, (ST MARY'S CMS PARTNER)

LATEST LINK LETTER Martin Hugall has kindly put Lynn's newest link letter on the church website on the latest News section. It makes for some challenging reading but, as always, is full of inspiration and faith. If you would prefer a hard copy, please contact me at suewalker619@btinternet.com and I will happily drop one round to you. *Sue Walker*

MINISTRY TEAM

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Revd Alex Jeewan	01799 531153
Revd John Saxon	01799 541619
Revd Dr Caroline Currer	01799 584839