

REFLECTIONS

In his second letter the apostle Peter admits that he found that in some of Paul's letters 'things that are hard to understand', but today's extract from his letter to the Philippians could hardly be more clear in its message. Paul in his pastoral care and love for the Christians at Philippi urges them to complete his joy by following the example of the Lord Jesus in his humility. He wants them to 'have the same mind among themselves, which is in Christ Jesus'. Paul focusses on how the humility of Christ led him to humble himself by becoming obedient, giving his life in service to others, and that disciples of Jesus should always be looking 'not only to their own interests but to the interests of others.' As we hear of the example of Jesus we see that true humility is about having this willingness to live a life in obedience to his word. This will lead us to be less concerned with our own feelings and desires and more aware of those around us with their feelings and needs.

I don't know if you have ever heard of a young man called William Borden. He was a young American, a committed Christian, who lived at the beginning of the last century and died aged 25 as he prepared to serve the Lord overseas. His life touched many at Yale University with his commitment and outgoing unselfish life. A friend wrote of him, 'It seemed that the Lord's spirit of service had so permeated his life that it not only led him to set his face to the field of the greatest need, but meanwhile made his life full of little services, day by day. It was easy to see his force, his devotion to Christ's cause, but it was only after having him around that you began to appreciate what a Christlike man he was. Obedience to the will of God irrespective of 'feeling' was perhaps the strongest thing about his life.'

These words from the letter to the Philippians really do merit a second read this week, and present us with both a call and a challenge to follow the example of Jesus and his humility.

John Risby

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

St Marys 10am Holy Communion President: John Sibson
Saffron Walden

Sewards End 9.30am Morning Praise Leader: Alan Curren

Little Walden 11.15am Holy Communion President: Michael
Lovegrove

Hadstock 9.30am Holy Communion President: Paula Griffiths

Ashdon 9.30am Harvest Festival Leader: Caroline Curren

Debden 9.15am Holy Communion President: Alex Jeewan
Preacher: Brian Kerrison

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

10.00am Holy Communion President: John Sibson
11.00am Sunday Worship Leader: Peter Gray
Preacher: Brian Kerrison

TUESDAY

5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: Marisa Baltrock

WEDNESDAY

9.30am Holy Communion Caroline Curren

**NEXT SUNDAY 4th October 2020
SERVICES IN CHURCH**

St Marys Saffron Walden
8am Holy Communion¹⁶⁶² President: Andy Colebrooke
6.30pm H2H Youth Service Leader: Matt Williamson

Hadstock 9.30am Harvest Festival Leader: Paula Griffiths

Ashdon 9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren

Wimbish 9.15am Harvest Festival Leader: John Saxon

The Grapevine

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
27th September 2020

Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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.

First Reading: Philippians 2.1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Gospel: Matthew 21.23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven," he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin," we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'

Post Communion

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; 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

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Those whose wedding banns are being called:
Adam Miles & Sarah Powdrill (at St Mary's, Saffron Walden)
Peter Vine & Emily Day (at Debden)

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

This week I have been reading in the book of Exodus, and the time when, under God, Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Conditions in the wilderness were not easy, and we read that several times the people 'grumbled against Moses' and sometimes even wished that they were back in Egypt as slaves. Most of us like to have a good old grumble from time to time, about the weather, politicians, the economy, our aches and pains etc...indeed some of us seem to enjoy a good old moan! I fear that grumbling can be like a disease, it can be contagious, and sometimes hard to throw off. In these unprecedented times there is a great temptation to only see the dark side of things [with some reason] and we all face circumstances in our lives that are very testing and lead us to grumble and complain and I fear that those in positions of leadership are often those on the receiving end.

Times were far from easy for the apostle Paul, what he had to face and endure was far beyond what most of us will ever know. His pastoral letters to fellow Christians under trial, however, were always positive and practical. It can be a breath of fresh air when we meet such people today, people who seldom grumble, and who choose to sensitively focus on the Lord and comfort and encouragement that he gives to all his children. 'Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding' Paul wrote to the Philippians, 'rejoice in the Lord always and again I say, 'rejoice', do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your minds in Christ Jesus.' Sometimes easier said than done, but an aim for us all. What about a pound in the pot when we fail? Maybe 10p might be more realistic and affordable!

With love and prayers,
John Risby

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

O God our loving heavenly Father, who has taught us never to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think; help us to attain that greatness of spirit that is ready for humble tasks, and ever to be servants of others, because we are servants of you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 28th	Morning Psalm 44 & Acts 19:8-20 Evening Psalm 47
Tue 29th	Morning Psalm 34 & Acts 12:1-11 Evening Psalm 138 & Revelation 5
Wed 30th	Morning Psalm 119:57-80 & Acts 20:1-16 Evening Psalm 59
Thurs 1st Oct	Morning Psalm 57 & Acts 20:17-end Evening Psalm 62
Fri 2nd	Morning Psalm 51 & Acts 21:1-16 Evening Psalm 38
Sat 3rd	Morning Psalm 68 & Acts 21:17-36 Evening Psalm 66

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 advised 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 on Wednesdays and Sundays between 2pm and 4pm. *Gill Caswell* All Saints, Ashdon, is open 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 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.

KNOWING CHRIST: CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND THE EUCHARIST is my second book, and expresses my deepest convictions about life, love and faith. It may be ordered at Harts Books, Saffron Walden, through Amazon or directly from the publisher at www.sacristy.co.uk. Let me know what you think! With love, *David (Tomlinson)*

HOMEMADE JAM Bullace (Wild Plum), Victoria Plum (not set very well but tasty) and Blackberry for sale at £2 a pot for Church funds. Please contact me on 521356 to arrange collection from Little Walden Road or delivery to you at home. Many thanks. *Lesley Green*

PLEASE NOTE All items for the **GRAPEVINE** should be sent to secretary.swrectory@ntlworld.com by no later than 9am on Wednesdays. Thank you.

COPY for next month's "**PARISH NEWS**" may be sent to the editor (andycolebrooke@gmail.com) by Sunday 4th October. The latest edition of the **PARISH NEWS** is available on the website at <http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews>

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: in anticipation of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 25th October 2020, the roll for **Saffron Walden, Little Walden and Swards End** will be revised on 10th October 2020. As well as expressing your commitment to the church, entry on the electoral roll entitles you to vote at the APCM. Application forms, which should be returned before 10th October, are available by downloading from the church website or by email from the parish office (office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org) or from electoralroll@stmaryssaffronwalden.org. **No action is required if your name is already on the new roll completed in 2019.** No names may be added to the roll between 10th October 2020 and the end of the APCM, except for the correction of errors. Completed forms may be emailed to electoralroll@stmaryssaffronwalden.org or posted to Electoral Roll Officer, 3 Orchard Close, Newport, Saffron Walden, CB11 3QT. The list of names, but not addresses, will be published for 14 days after completion of the revision and will be available for inspection thereafter. *Clifford Want*

MINISTRY TEAM

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