

## SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – BIBLE SUNDAY

### ST MARY’S CHURCH, INGLETON

Bible Readings: 2 Timothy 3v14-4v5 & John 5v36-46

#### Reflection & Prayer for Bible Sunday by Sue Simpson

I recently spent a week in the Lake District, in an unusual holiday destination, and I found myself visiting a church. The pews were filled with primary school children enjoying a ‘service’ for the first time since Covid. Masked and cleansed, I sat on a chair at the back of the church and was immediately caught up in the beauty of the occasion. The children were attentive and well behaved as they listened to the spell-binding story of the woman who bathed Jesus’ feet, drying them with her hair. We were transported to another time and place and as scents wafted over us, we shared the presence of Jesus! A beautiful moment and one which made me thankful that here were a hundred or so modern children well used to smart phones, TV screens and gaming apps, all focused on this wonderful Bible story. What a privilege for me.



I was reminded that from infancy these stories were read to me, my Grandmother bought me a children’s Bible and from the age of five, I learned to read the stories for myself. Though I didn’t appreciate it at the time, as I grew up in the 50s and 60s, the bible was the foundation of my life, attending school, Sunday school Girl Guides and Church. It formed the basis of our National laws, formed the backbone of my education and gave each one of us a structure to our lives. When I made my Guide promise I promised to serve God! And so wherever I have travelled, in the schools in which I taught, whenever I needed guidance, it has formed the foundation, my philosophy of education and has been my ‘go to’ reference manual. It still is!

Earlier in **John Chapter 4**, Jesus admonishes the Jewish Leaders, the experts on the scriptures who, though steeped in the law and the word of God and used to arguing over minute points, do not recognise Jesus who says, “*You have never heard his voice, nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent*”. John 5 v37b &38.

For me, I knew the stories, inside out, had imagined myself in the presence of Jesus by the Sea of Gallilee, said my prayers and yet.....It wasn’t until I encountered Jesus for real, half way through my life, that the words of the Bible became much, much more. Once I had accepted Jesus fully into my life, the words lifted from the page and took on a whole new meaning. The Bible really became the ‘Living Word.’ How exciting was that? WOW! Now that I **know** Jesus, every time I read my bible I enjoy a fresh encounter with my Lord.

*‘These are the very scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.’*  
Jesus extends an invitation to all, without exception. He is the Living Word. John v 39b &40.

Timothy goes on to explain, *‘and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.’* Tim 3 v 15

If we are to be servants of God we need to be thoroughly equipped for every good work. We therefore **need** to encounter Jesus and **know** our Bibles to be **ready** for our times.

*I thank God for those who guided me to the treasures of the Bible, parents, teachers, pastors and friends. Lord, grant me wisdom and courage to share your word with others, so that many may come to know you, and your Gospel may spread throughout our village, our Kingdom and the World.*

*Lord, your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path, lead me daily into your word. Light my way in the darkness, equip me for service to others and grant that my path may be visible all the days of my life. Amen*

### Thoughts for Prayer

- For the work of the Bible Societies across the world.
- For the mission of each parish in proclaiming the good news of Jesus.
- For all those affected by the death of the late Sir David Amess MP, especially his loved ones.



### **Collect for the 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

### Church News:

#### **Church Services & Open Church**

Services will be continue to held at 10:30am every week at St Mary's. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October there will be a service of Morning Praise. St Mary's Church is also open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays for visiting and private prayer, 10am-4pm.

#### **Tributes to Sir David Amess MP**

Members of the House of Bishops have been paying tribute to the late Sir David Amess MP, tragically killed last week. The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: "I had the great honour of calling David Amess a friend when I was Bishop of Chelmsford. He was the MP for the constituency where I grew up, and not only did he always faithfully serve those people and that place, but had a particular concern for the Christian community born of his own deeply held Christian faith as a member of the Roman Catholic community. It is shocking that someone so dedicated to his community and public service was the victim of such violence as he went about his elected duty. It is hard to make sense of the horror of what has happened this afternoon but he and his family and those he loves are in my prayers."

#### **Services marking All Souls, 'In Loving Memory' – 7<sup>th</sup> November**

During the last few years many of the churches of the team have held service in memory of departed loved ones. This is done on or around All Souls day (02/11). A letter will be sent to many of those recently bereaved in our parishes. At St Mary's there will be a service on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 10:30am. We will mark the occasion with times of silent reflection and prayer, the lighting of candles, themed readings and an address.

#### **St John's Parish Church, Bentham**

As some of you may have heard, the building works had to be suspended at St John's for some weeks. However, these are due to restart soon. This means that the congregation of St John's will need to continue worshipping in other places for some weeks. Please continue to pray for them and for the good progress of the works.

#### **Environment & Eco Tips**

The theme for October is 'keeping warm and this week's suggestion is:

- Make sure your hot water tank is insulated with a thick jacket. It will save you lots of money not to mention reducing your carbon emissions.

### Pastoral Support

Contact us any time for support:  
Pop Up Pantry (open Saturdays 10am-12).  
Contact Kelly Robinson – 41125  
Revd Nick Trenholme – 41924

Revd Denis Tate – 61579  
Church of England Daily Hope line (worship  
phone service) – 0800 804 8044  
IRCA Covid-19 Response Team - 41701