

SUNDAY 24th OCTOBER – BIBLE SUNDAY

ST LEONARD’S CHURCH, CHAPEL-LE-DALE

Bible Readings: Isaiah 55v1-11, 2 Timothy 3v14-4v5, John 5v36-46

John 5 The works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, ³⁸ nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. ³⁹ You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

⁴¹ “I do not accept glory from human beings, ⁴² but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. ⁴³ I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

⁴⁵ “But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. ⁴⁶ If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.

Reflection & Prayer

I confess that I love books. My wife sometimes teases me about the number of books I obtain “for ministry” so that now I try to ask myself if I really need to have another. Not everybody enjoys reading of course and for some being asked or expected to read is positively off-putting. Yet there is something enduringly appealing and powerful about the printed word. Even in today’s digital age the book remains popular. In times past it changed the face of history. The printing press, it has been observed, had a huge impact on European history.

This Sunday is Bible Sunday, a day to give thanks for God’s written word and to rededicate ourselves to engaging with it. Of course this is always important. Parish churches are designed to be places where the Word of God is heard and taught. The Book of Common Prayer is filled with extracts from Scripture, and its services are in many ways structured around the reading of passages from it. The importance of understanding the Bible was impressed upon me in my early days as a Christian, and has shaped my life ever since.

I believe that a healthy church engages fruitfully with the Bible and finds its words to be spiritual food which changes the rest of life for the better. It is entirely possible to be so focussed on intellectual understanding that we reduce this to mere ‘bookishness’. This is not the vision of Jesus when he talks about the Bible. In the reading today he says “These are the very Scriptures that testify about me.” To his opponents he then says, “yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”

Let us turn that round and think about it in the opposite way. When Jesus speaks about “life” he means more than mere existence. This is the life and blessing of God which, “wells up to eternal life” as he said in Chapter 4. So if we *do* want to come to Jesus to have this kind of life, then we can know him through Scripture. The Bible is not just a book of information about a time long ago, and lands far away. It does talk about these things, but it also points towards someone we should know better and better, Jesus Christ. Even the Old Testament points to him.

Sometimes we find the stories too far removed from our way of life, making them hard to understand. In some ways that is a challenge but it can be good, because it helps us to see beyond our own concerns. The act of making connections between then and now helps us. It keeps the church from being “parochial” (in that negative sense of inward focussed). It helps us to see the world with a wider perspective. It guards us from feeling downcast. So let us take up and



Photo by Priscilla Du Preez on Unsplash

Weekly Bulletin – St Leonard’s, Chapel-le-Dale, www.ingleboroughchurches.org.uk, Revd Nick Trenholme, Tel. 41924 read, both ourselves at home and when together let us come to God’s word expecting to find life in Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Faithful God who promised to give life to those who follow Christ. Guide us on our way, may your word be a light to us and lead us to salvation in Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 21st Sunday after Trinity

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

Church News:

Church Services and Open Church

Services continue each week at 2:30pm. There will be a service of Holy Communion on Sunday 24th October. St Leonard’s is open daily 10am-4pm. We have recommenced singing hymns in church.

Appointment of Next Team Rector

Having said farewell to Revd Anne Russell recently, the process has begun in seeking to fill the role of Team Rector for our parishes once again. This will take some months, and the church councils of the parishes have begun work. If you would like to make your views known then please get in touch either with the churchwardens or PCC secretaries or the team clergy. The post will be advertised early in 2022.

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."

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:
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