

In & around the Benefice....

26th July | Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Our Acting Rector is The Reverend Janet Tebby

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Please visit our website for information on worship during the lockdown

<http://www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk/worship/worship-during-the-lockdown>



****** This week's Benefice Morning Praise service is live online at 10am on Sunday 26th July ******

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88301473698>

Meeting ID: 883 0147 3698

Worship in our churches

26th July, 10am at St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby - Patronal Festival (no communion)

Please note: numbers are restricted so seats will be reserved for members of Castle Ashby parish only

If you would like to attend the service, please check with the churchwarden that there will be space for you.

It is strongly advised that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship

Reflection – The Love of God. Romans 8:26-end

Paul wrote his letter to the Christians in Rome in approximately AD 57. It is a letter to the Roman Jews who had come to their faith during Pentecost who Paul longed to meet and who he loved because they were his brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul uses the letter to tell them what to believe and how to behave.

In Chapter 8 verses 38 and 39 there are words of great comfort. Paul is telling us that there is nothing in creation that can separate us from the Love of God and that the death of Jesus is proof of that.

We have had to face many hardships in our lives and this year, because of the pandemic, there have been some extraordinary hardships we have had to bear. It has been a painful time. Sometimes, when we face hardships or pain it can feel like we have been abandoned. However, Paul reminds us that nothing in creation can separate us from the love of God we find in Jesus. God's love given to us through Christ is invincible and that love cannot be separated from us yesterday, today and tomorrow.

I pray that we can all hold onto and feel God's love yesterday, today and tomorrow. Amen.

With every blessing and my prayers for you all, **Liz, Benefice Reader.**

Please can I thank everyone who attended the service when Bishop John admitted me as a reader for the benefice on the 12th of July. It was wonderful to have so many people attend. I have been grateful for all the support and encouragement I have been given over the three years of my training and I want to thank those who sent messages and cards for my special day. It was a day I will never forget. Liz

Please hold in your prayers this week:

- ◇ All those missing loved ones who live far away
- ◇ All involved in the process of finding our new Rector
- ◇ Those suffering from, affected by or working to prevent the spread of Coronavirus
- ◇ NHS staff caring for Covid-19 patients, that they may have strength and resilience for their task, and be kept safe
- ◇ Persecuted Christians across the world, especially in North Korea
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: Chris Sayles, Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Mairi Boyd, Anne Blackmore, Fabienne Godfrey
- ◇ The recently departed, amongst them Evelyn Williams, and all who grieve at this time, amongst them Peter and family

The Collect

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading

Genesis 29: 15-28

Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' Laban said, 'This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.' Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 8: 26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glorify to you, O Lord**

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable:

'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen