

In & around the Benefice....

9th August | Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Our Acting Rector is The Reverend Janet Tebby

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*** This week's Benefice Morning Praise service is live online at 10am on Sunday 9th August ***

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82998671601>

Meeting ID: 829 9867 1601 Passcode: 755664

Holy Communion services in our churches this month

9th August 10am	Grendon
16th August 10am	Denton
23rd August 10am	Castle Ashby
30th August 10am	Whiston

Harvest Festival services in September

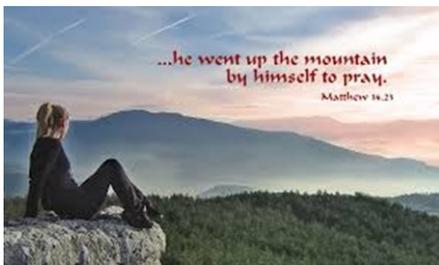
6th Sept 10am	Yardley Hastings
13th Sept 10am	Castle Ashby
20th Sept 10am	Grendon
27th Sept 10am	Denton
27th Sept 3pm	Whiston

For the time being, we are asking that you only attend the services in your usual church, as numbers are limited due to the social distancing rules. Online services will continue each Sunday for those not able to come to one of the "live" services. As always please visit our website for further details and service rotas.

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

Reflection Matthew 14:22-33

Take a break – if Jesus needed to, then so do we.



In the verses from Matthew that come before this week's passage, we hear how Jesus has fed a multitude of people, he has healed the sick among them, he had had compassion on them and listened to them.

This has happened on the banks of the Sea of Galilee at the same time as Jesus heard about the brutal murder of his cousin John – the Baptist. Jesus is exhausted, racked with grief, and at the end of his tether.

'Immediately, Jesus tells his friends to get into a boat and head off out onto the water' here he is removing his friends from the chaos, he is protecting them. 'Jesus then dismissed the crowd'.

Then Jesus, did not return to the shore to join his friends in the boat, instead, he 'went up on a mountainside by himself to pray'. This is a wonderful example of self-help. Jesus removes himself from everyone. Perhaps this looks selfish, after all the disciples were waiting for him on the boat. But Jesus puts some space between himself and everyone else, except God. Perhaps he shouted and screamed at God about the loss of John, perhaps he slept, perhaps he ate some of the bread and fish, who knows... but we do know that he prayed and was refreshed and nourished by time spent with his father.

My prayer for all of us is that in the business of our lives, that we find some time for quiet, for peace, perhaps a time to lament with God, to listen to his voice and be nourished and refreshed, so that we can begin September with new energy and hope for our future with God and each other.

With peaceful blessings, Rev. Amanda

Please hold in your prayers this week:

- ◇ Christine Dryden and Andy Baker, being married at St Andrew's Yardley Hastings on 14th August, and for those couples in our benefice who have had to defer their weddings to next year: Aimee Hogan and Joseph Noble; Joanna Tomkins and Daman Stredwick; Heidi Benham and Toby Marshman
- ◇ 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, Jean Williams and all who grieve at this time

The Collect

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, 'Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.' He answered, 'Here I am.' So he said to him, 'Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me.' So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, 'What are you seeking?' 'I am seeking my brothers,' he said; 'tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.' The man said, 'They have gone away, for I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan."' So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.' But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, 'Let us not take his life.' Reuben said to them, 'Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him'—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt.

Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.' And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14: 22-33

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

Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen