

# ***In & around the Benefice....***

*25th October | Last Sunday after Trinity*



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## **Greetings!**

My first thoughts when I wake up in the morning is often 'What day is it?' or 'What's happening today?' before I propel myself into getting ready to say Morning Prayer. Whilst I am more of a night owl than a lark, these few hours before the busyness of the day comes to the fore are so precious - even more so as the dark mornings are drawing in. I love sitting with God, and sharing my first cup of tea with my Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Indeed the peace and quietness of that encounter sustains me for the rest of the day. What are these first moments of the day filled with for you? What is your routine? Our gospel passage for this week reminds us of the 'greatest commandment' to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind." Jesus goes on to say "and the second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself." Many Jews will recite the greatest commandment or the *Shema* as soon as they wake in the morning - these would be the first words they utter each day. It is a practice which becomes a daily reminder to turn back to God... What small tweak could we make to remind ourselves to turn our faces back to God each day? How might turning back to God help us to love those around us as much as we love ourselves?

Every Blessing, Morna

***Our Benefice Songs of Praise Service is live online at 10am on Sunday 25th October***

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85406910404> Meeting ID: 854 0691 0404 Passcode: 333394

## **Today's Worship Services in our churches:**

|        |      |              |                 |
|--------|------|--------------|-----------------|
| 25 Oct | 8am  | Whiston      | Holy Communion  |
| 25 Oct | 10am | Castle Ashby | Holy Communion  |
| 25 Oct | 4pm  | Denton       | Worship For All |

## **Monday 2nd November is All Souls Day**

We will be marking this with a short service (most likely online) please email Rev Morna with the names of those who you would like to be remembered during this service.

## **Please hold in your prayers this week:**

- ◇ The Revd Morna Simpson as she takes up her role as our Rector, and for us all as we enter a new chapter in the life of the Benefice
- ◇ The schools in our Benefice, the headteachers John Wayland and Louise Brown and the staff as they endeavour to make school a welcoming and safe environment for all the children
- ◇ The young people from our Benefice who are living away from home, that they keep safe in these uncertain times.
- ◇ The health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry.
- ◇ 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: Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Muriel Coulson, Thelma Denton
- ◇ The recently departed, amongst them Margaret Rigby-Smith and Chris Wordsworth, and all who grieve at this time

***Much loved and long-serving Church Warden at St Mary's, Grendon,  
Margaret Rigby-Smith, sadly passed away last Sunday.***

***Please could you remember the family, and all who mourn for Margaret, in your prayers.  
Whilst numbers at the funeral are restricted due to current guidelines, there will be an opportunity  
to remember Margaret in one of our midweek services close to the funeral. More details to follow.***

## The Collect

Merciful God,  
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,  
that trusting in your word and obeying your will we  
may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

## Old Testament Reading

*Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18*

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:  
'Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel  
and say to them:  
You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall  
not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with  
justice you shall judge your neighbour.

You shall not go around as a slanderer among your  
people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your  
neighbour: I am the Lord.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin;  
you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur  
guilt yourself.

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge  
against any of your people, but you shall love your  
neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## New Testament Reading

*1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8*

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our  
coming to you was not in vain, but though we had  
already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at  
Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to  
declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great  
opposition.

For our appeal does not spring from deceit or  
impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been  
approved by God to be entrusted with the message  
of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please  
mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts.

As you know and as God is our witness, we never  
came with words of flattery or with a pretext for  
greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether  
from you or from others, though we might have  
made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were  
gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for  
her own children. So deeply do we care for you that  
we are determined to share with you not only the  
gospel of God but also our own selves, because you  
have become very dear to us.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

*Matthew 22: 34-46*

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

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced  
the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of  
them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.  
'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the  
greatest?'

He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all  
your mind." This is the greatest and first  
commandment.

And a second is like it: "You shall love your  
neighbour as yourself."

On these two commandments hang all the law and  
the prophets.'

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together,  
Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think  
of the Messiah? Whose son is he?'

They said to him, 'The son of David.'

He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the  
Spirit calls him Lord, saying, "The Lord said to my  
Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies  
under your feet' " ?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his  
son?'

No one was able to give him an answer, nor from  
that day did anyone dare to ask him any more  
questions.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Post Communion Prayer

God of all grace,  
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread  
of his life and the word of his kingdom:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in  
all our weakness sustain us by your true and living  
bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen**



This line – which is available 24 hours a day on  
**0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly  
with those unable to join online church services  
during the period of restrictions in mind.