

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN MELBOURNE, SMISBY,
STANTON-BY-BRIDGE AND TICKNALL

THE BULLETIN

A weekly publication for the Benefice

Sunday 20th September 2020



St Matthew

Across the Benefice Today

- 10.30 am **Parish Eucharist – Melbourne**
the Revd Steve Short & the Revd-to-be Alan Winfield
- 11.00 am **Morning Prayer – Stanton-By-Bridge**
Canon David Edwards

From the Rector

Dear all,



The above is one of my favourite cartoons. I like the fact that Brother Al 'is working on it'! Maybe he was having a bad morning? Christian Discipleship is, for the most part, 'working on it.' The great theologian John Hicks describes this journey as moving from being made in God's image to attaining likeness. In a nut shell from 'image to likeness'.

Matthew, sitting in his tax booth, was possibly even a few chairs away from brother Al in that he probably wasn't even working on love, rather working on his own needs and gain. Jesus, though, is working on him – he issues a simple invitation 'Follow me' and all, for Levi/Matthew, is never the same again.

As much as we rightly and necessarily work on our own discipleship, the story of Matthew's call and renewal reminds us powerfully that we are called by a love 'that wilt not let us go' to paraphrase the much-loved hymn.

Through the cross and the empty tomb, we are reminded that God is always working with us and through us in life, in death and beyond. We know that we continue to live in unpredictable times where, sometimes, crumbs of comfort are harder to find but the risen Christ is still with us, in us, calling us with the invitation 'follow me'. Life, abundant life, awaits. Matthew knew this, may we always know it, too.

Booking your place for Sunday worship at Melbourne

Thank you to all those who booked their place using the below contacts. Just a few notes of clarification on the booking process: -to be as a fair as possible to everyone who might wish to attend, booking will, at present, need to be every week. The booking line and email will be active from 10 am each Monday morning for the following Sunday.

-the above means that block booking isn't possible but it has been lovely to see that people have been indicating they would like to attend week by week!

To book your place/places (clarifying if you are attending alone or in a 'bubble') please contact Rachel Short, ideally by email on:

rach.short27@gmail.com or by phone: **07747 898638**. To comply with 'track and trace' requirements, worshippers will be asked to supply name and telephone numbers.

If you wish to attend regularly, we will ask permission to keep your details for longer than the current 21-day period to enable ease of booking on future Sundays.

COVID protocols

You will notice that it will take a little longer than usual to enter the church in order to ensure contact details have been taken and everyone has sanitised their hands. Again, in line with national requirements, masks will need to be worn unless you are exempt. Stewards and acting warden (or deputy) will be on hand to show worshippers to their allotted seat as per the seating plan to ensure that social distancing is observed. Entrance will be via the North Door (facing Church Square) and exiting, for approximately half the congregation, by the South Door (facing towards the Pool), sanitising hands once again on leaving.

Reopening at Smisby and Ticknall

Work is also being earnestly undertaken so that worship may soon begin again throughout our benefice. In Ticknall we hope to reopen next week on Sunday 27th September with more news on Smisby soon.

Alan's Ordination as Deacon

Alan was licensed as a lay worker to our benefice by bishop Libby on July 5th but this was only ever intended to be a 'stepping stone' whilst the ordinations services were rearranged when lockdown easing allowed. It is good news that the ordinations have been set for the Michaelmas weekend -next weekend- and Alan will be ordained deacon at a service in Derby Cathedral on Sunday 27th September at 2 pm. Unfortunately, the worship will be subject to the current regulations meaning that there will be very few able to attend. This aside, I'm sure the service will be a wonderful occasion where God is powerfully present as Alan takes 'Holy Orders'. Do please pray for Alan, Sue and the family as this momentous and holy day draws closer.

Every blessing,
Steve

News from Jen Smallwood, our flower guild coordinator

Very sadly, following a number of injuries that need recuperation, Jen has indicated that she needs to step down from this important role. I am very grateful indeed to Jen for all she has done and pray that she will soon make a full recovery as she continues to be most ably supported by John.

If anyone would like to volunteer, please speak to me or Terry our acting warden. Many thanks again to Jen.

A pattern for daily prayer, so that, at home or at church we can pray together:

Monday: Those in great poverty or need.

Tuesday: Those who have asked for our prayers: Anne Brazier, Roo Hubbard, David Ingram, Kate Landenberger Bob Smith, Margaret Stockley Joan Tatam.

Those in Derby's hospitals and hospices. All at Pool Cottage.

All who are suffering from Covid-19.

Wednesday: Our benefice and our diocese. For our bishop, bishop Libby and our cathedral dean, Peter.

Thursday: Our schools as they continue their new academic year. The church worldwide. All Christian people. The local church. The Anglican Communion.

Friday: All in need, especially the hungry, poor and homeless.

The Departed

We also remember those whose anniversaries occur near this time among them Florence Brame, Cyril Burden, Frederick Ross, Peggy Heafield.

Bible Readings for Today

Old Testament Reading – Proverbs 3.13-18

Happy are those who find wisdom,
and those who get understanding,
for her income is better than silver,
and her revenue better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honour.

Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called happy.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 9.9-13*

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?'

But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

Collect for St Matthew

O almighty God,
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax-collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain
and the possessive love of riches
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Daily Hope

The Church of England continues to run a free phonenumber service of hymns, reflections and prayers. To access call: **0800 804 8044**

Contact Us

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If there is anyone you know who would like to go on our prayer list or who would appreciate a phone call, do please contact Steve or the parish office. Thank you.

**Jesus said,
'I am with you always, to the end of the age.'
Matthew 28.20**

**Please take this bulletin home with you
to minimise any transmission risk.**