

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

THE BULLETIN

A weekly publication for the Benefice

Sunday 25th October 2020



Bible Sunday

Across the Benefice Today

10.30 am **Parish Eucharist – Melbourne**
the Revd Michael Rogers

10.30 am **Morning Prayer – Ticknall**
Dr Nick Gravestock

11.00 am **Morning Prayer – Stanton-by-Bridge**
The Revd Alan Winfield

5.30 pm **Evening Prayer – Smisby**
Canon David Edwards

From the Rector

Bible Sunday

A friend of mine, also a vicar's son, once remarked on the tatty state of his father's main bible. The reply instantly came back 'if your bible's broke, you are not'.

Today on Bible Sunday, we reflect on God's word revealed to us through the ages in this 'living and active' Spirit-filled collection of poetry, history, drama, law, prophecy, pastoral letters and so much more. As we reflect so we also recommit ourselves, as the Bible Sunday collect challenges us, to 'read, mark and inwardly-digest' the sacred words that tell us, again and again, that we are loved.

Continuing the biblical imagery, please see below my report given at last week's annual meeting.

I want to share with you two biblical images. The first from the Psalm 137 which reads 'By the rivers of Babylon—
there we sat down and there we wept
when we remembered Zion.'

This is a people looking back, exiled from what they know. A difficult story to inhabit.

The second is the one Bishop Libby, our bishop, used at Diocesan synod last week. It concerns Peter in Matthew's Gospel ch.14. There is a storm and the boat in which the disciples rest is being battered. Jesus, who is walking on the water, invites Peter to get out of the boat and walk as he does.

Peter has to get out of the boat to experience a new (albeit) scary reality. But, crucially, one in which Jesus says do not be afraid. This is a story of looking forward, experiencing a new future.

So it is important to look back, to remember and it is important to look forward even if in the midst of a storm.

This, we know, has been a year quite unlike any of us has experienced and it is not over yet.

I want to thank you for all you have prayed and done that enables us to be here. The burden of responsibility has been quite pronounced over these months and I am grateful to our church council and our lay leaders and ministry team for sharing in that responsibility – especially where risk assessments are concerned!

We also know that this virus and the response to it is difficult to predict. We must continue to be mindful of each other's needs and the needs of the community we are called to serve.

Over these months, in the midst of a storm, new ways of being, new opportunities have been embraced. Although not for everyone, I know, I have been amazed and humbled by the response to the Facebook-streamed worship. People watching from all over the world at times and right the way across our benefice, too. So there continue to be online opportunities which need to be explored.

As we both remember and look forward, there will be other new opportunities that God will reveal – of that, I have no doubt. We seek missionally to find out what God is doing and then join in.

To enable mission and outreach, we need always to look at how we, as Christians, sustain and feed ourselves which then directly leads us to how we then serve the world into which we are sent out.

In the midst of a storm, then, a few priorities.

With help and support I am most grateful for, I am setting up two focus (or scoping) groups to do some 'blue sky' thinking about our Christian nurture and also the ways in which we do and might engage with our community – Christian nurture and community engagement.

These will be small groups with a specific time frame - remembering, assessing and looking forward. These groups, I hope and pray, will aim to be a hub for ideas and initiatives and open to input from us all - inclusive rather than exclusive.

Remembering and looking forward.

Also looking forward, I want to here echo the words of a fellow priest – ‘Christmas is not cancelled.’ Although our celebrations will be different this year, there will still be opportunities for worshipping and reaching out into our community. These ventures will need time and careful planning. Please do pray for God to lead us and bless our endeavours.

In remembering and looking forward, may we know again that the one who calls us is faithful. God is with us yesterday, tomorrow and always ‘even unto the end of the age.’

All Souls’ Service

Each year we hold a special service to remember the lives of those who have gone before us knowing that, through God’s grace, we are all saints together – the church living and departed, the church temporal and eternal. This years’ service on Sunday 1st November will be a ‘virtual’ service broadcast live on our church Facebook page at 6.30pm. As with our services in church, this will be a service of Evening Prayer which will include the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed where the names of departed loved ones are prayerfully read out. If you would like a loved one remembered and their name read out as part of that commemoration please email: rector@melbourneparishchurch.co.uk or phone 01332 864741.

The order of service will be available for download from the website, delivery via email or postal delivery. Please in your message, let us know which option is best for you.

Calling Private Prayer Pilgrims

A reminder that Individual prayer opportunities are still available in Melbourne Parish Church each Wednesday afternoon from 2-4 pm. No need to book, just turn up. Entry by the North Door. From the 1st November the opening times will change to 12.30 pm – 2 pm. For Remembrance Day, Wednesday 11 November the Church will be open from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm. My very grateful thanks to the ‘Prayer Pilgrim Team’ for all their work in hosting our prayer pilgrims.

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 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 may 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.

Every blessing, Steve

Administration from the Parish Office

Some of you will be aware that Kate Landenberger is currently recovering from an operation and receiving ongoing treatment. We miss seeing Kate in our congregation and wish her a speedy recovery.

We also sorely miss Kate carrying out Parish administrative duties from Church House. Steve has spoken with Kate and, with a view to covering the workload on a temporary basis, the Standing Committee has agreed to Rachel Short taking on the role. Rachel already covers other administrative jobs and is well placed to 'stand in'. Happily, she is also willing to do so!

Our love and best wishes to Kate and thanks to Rachel.
Linda and Terry, Churchwardens

Flowers in church

The flower arrangement by the choir stalls in church on Sunday was a welcome sight.

Thank you to Margaret Murray-Leslie for that and also for kindly offering to co-ordinate the flower arranging team once we are able to go ahead as 'normal'. As well as volunteers already known to Margaret, she is keen to recruit new people who want to learn or others who wish to use their existing skills.

Margaret would be very pleased to hear too from anyone who is able to go to collect flowers for arranging. We all can be involved by donating to the flower fund. Certainly in the past people have been generous in giving, particularly at festival times such as Easter or Christmas.

Please do contact Margaret on 01332 862921 if you need more information or can offer help. We look forward to the time when we can once again enjoy flowers in our beautiful church.

Linda Latchford, Churchwarden

Children's Society

Autumn winds are blowing and once again it is time to count up our donations to the Children's Society. Times are difficult as we all know and because of Covid restrictions it is almost certain that we will have to explore alternative ways of holding our Christingle service this year.

However, the Society are still extremely grateful for any funds we are able to raise.

May I then ask those kind people who hold a Society collection box to return it to me at 23 Castle Street, Melbourne, or if it is easier for you please give me a ring on 01332 862013 and I will pick it up at a time convenient to you. (An answer phone is always on if you wish to leave your name and telephone number.)

Thanking you all in advance, Avril Harrison

Pens for sale!

Mothers' Union members are selling stylish colourful black ink gel pens for the bargain price of £1. We are trying to raise a little money so that we can carry on our Charity work. We haven't been able to hold our usual meetings but the work of the Mothers' Union with families here in the U.K. and around the world is still carrying on and is much in demand. Please help us to play our part by buying a pen.

Ros Bell

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 Constance Morley.

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.

Bible Readings for Today

Old Testament Reading: Nehemiah 8.1-4a [5-6] 8-12

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand.[And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.] So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he

said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.' So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24.30-35

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Prayer after Communion

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.

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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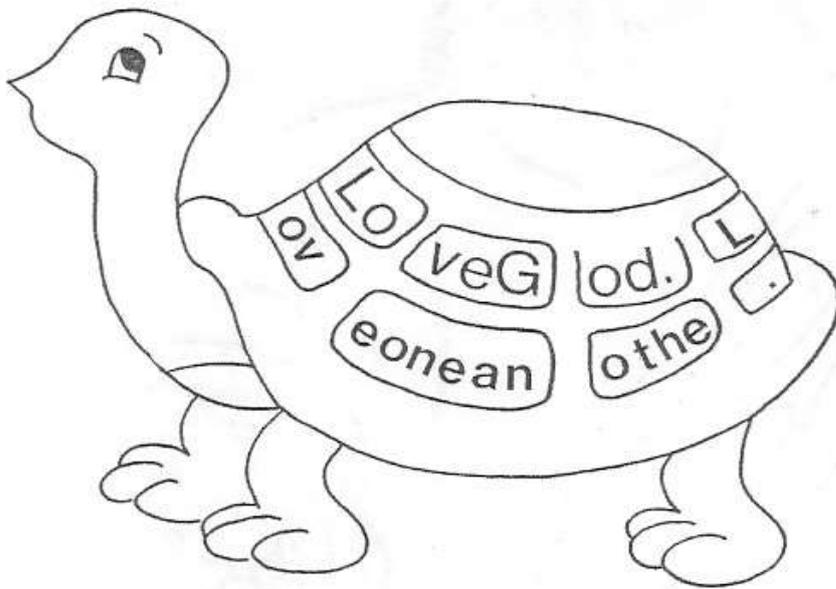
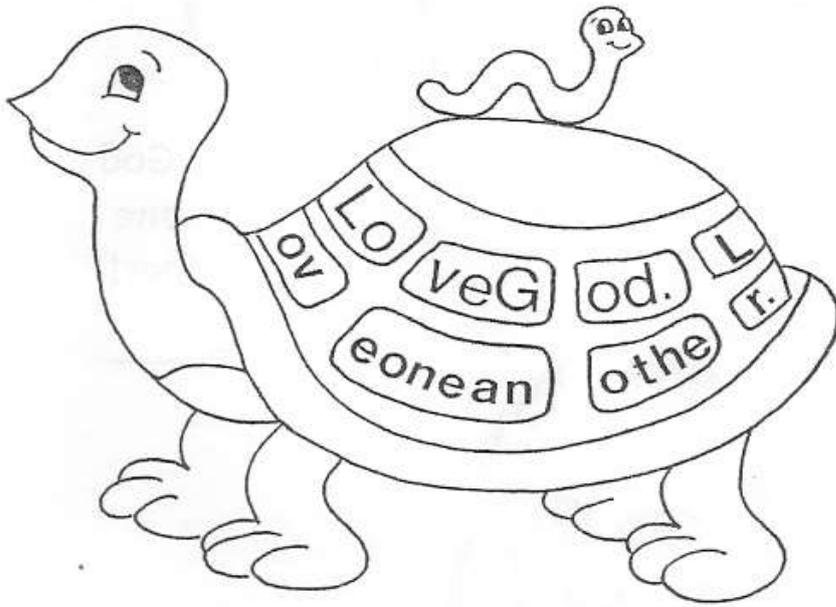
Facebook: Melbourne Parish Church or
<https://www.facebook.com/Melbourne-Parish-Church-Derbyshire-198938417583824/>

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, one of the wardens or the parish office. Thank you.

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

Children's corner!

There are 6 things missing from the bottom picture.
Can you spot them all and draw them in?

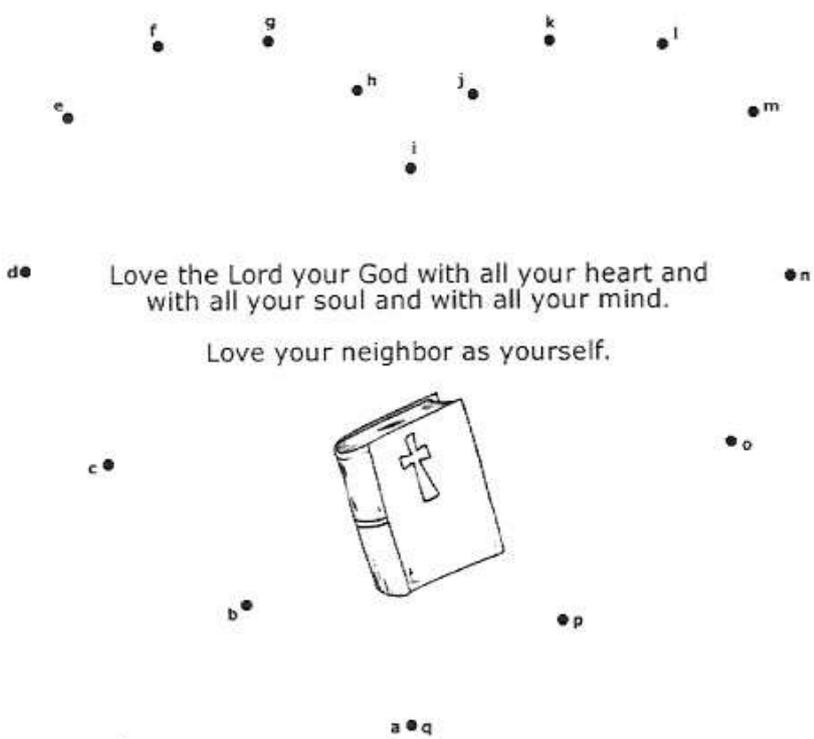


Can you puzzle out what the tortoise-shell says?

Did you know?...

The Galapagos Tortoise can grow to about 1.5 metres (4.9 feet).

The Aldabran Tortoise can weigh up to 300 kgs (660 lbs)!



Join the dots from a to q

Now find the words in the wordsearch

N	E	I	G	H	B	O	U	R	S	T	V	Q	K	G
F	L	E	S	R	U	O	Y	U	N	L	R	U	R	R
K	G	D	N	I	M	A	S	E	W	F	K	E	N	B
F	I	N	D	M	Q	E	M	H	A	A	A	S	L	W
P	H	K	I	Q	J	D	P	O	A	T	L	T	O	T
Q	R	M	L	R	N	S	Z	W	E	J	U	I	R	L
U	X	N	L	A	A	L	J	S	S	U	B	O	D	S
N	Z	L	M	O	P	E	T	M	K	A	S	N	X	V
C	R	M	S	L	V	H	H	E	A	R	T	D	E	V
V	O	F	L	R	O	E	A	K	X	I	P	T	S	D
C	M	T	J	Y	A	R	J	R	X	L	U	R	G	B
X	R	Z	S	X	I	Q	L	N	I	U	Q	E	T	C
C	E	O	C	M	T	S	U	K	E	S	K	P	N	K
V	U	O	U	M	D	D	U	S	G	T	E	X	H	E
L	D	M	B	F	D	N	H	W	K	I	J	E	O	Y

- COMMANDMENT
- EXPERT
- GREATEST
- HEARING
- HEART
- JESUS
- LAW
- LORD
- LOVE
- MIND
- NEIGHBOUR
- PHARISEE
- QUESTION
- SOUL
- YOURSELF



Did you notice the different spelling of **neighbour** in the dot-to-dot?? Which country spells it that way?

USA