

The parish of
St Martin of Tours
with St Stephen-on-the-Downs

Weekly Newsletter
Registered Charity Number: 1134149

Sunday 24th October 2021 – Last Sunday after Trinity – Bible Sunday

Dear Friends

Welcome: A warm welcome to all!

If you are visiting or attending worship here for the first time, please make yourselves known to one of the Welcome Team, Churchwardens or Clergy so that we can give you a personal welcome. Refreshments will be served at the back of the Church at St Martin's after the 10am service - please join us.

Bible Sunday is a chance to recommit ourselves to take the Bible seriously. A regular habit of reading and study is important. It's a good read! History, poetry, biography, tragedy and triumph, and most importantly inspiration for our lives.

THIS WEEK

Sunday 24th October – Last Sunday after Trinity – Bible Sunday

- 9.30am – Holy Communion at St Stephen's – led by Andris Abakuks
- 10.00am – Morning Prayer at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed – led by Ruth Foxcroft
- 6.30pm – Evening Prayer at St Martin's – (in Church and live streamed) led by John Padwick

(In light of continued rates of infection in our community, we will continue with communion in one kind during October).

Wednesday 27th October

- 10.00am – Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel – led by Andris Abakuks

FUTURE SERVICES

Sunday 31st October – All Saints

- 9.30am – Morning Prayer at St Stephen's – led by Graeme Lodge
- 10.00am – Holy Communion at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed – led by Archdeacon Martin Breadmore
- 6.30pm – Evening Prayer at St Martin's – (in Church and live streamed) led by Judith Mitchell

DISCIPLESHIP /STUDY/ WORSHIP MEETINGS

Morning Prayer and Pastoral Support

Every Tuesday, Morning Prayer is held at 9.00am lasting between 20 and 30 minutes. From 9.30 am I shall be available in the church until 12.00 noon. If anyone wishes to talk to me about their worries or anything on their mind, please feel free to come for a chat which will of course be in total confidence. When I am not available for any reason another member of the Pastoral or Ministry Team will be there in my place.

Mary Gilbert, Pastoral Team

Churches Together in Epsom Monthly prayer meetings:

Following a well-attended and enjoyable social gathering, 'in person', by CTiE reps, at the Old Moat Café, we decided to alternately locate the monthly prayer meetings to 'Zoom online' or 'in person', for a trial period. We were able to pray at the end of our social gathering at the Old Moat Café and received a positive response. The Old Moat Café has a covered outdoor area which should prove a Covid-safe environment. The gatherings will start at 9.15 on zoom and at 10 am for the 'in person' meetings. Dates of our monthly prayer meetings for Autumn 2021 are:

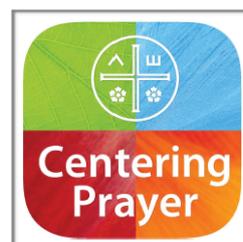
- Friday November 12th: 9.15-9.45am on Zoom
- Friday December 10th: 10-11am at Old Moat Café

Old Moat Garden Centre Café is in Horton Lane, Epsom

[Find Us — The Old Moat Garden Centre & Cafe](#)



Centering Prayer Taster Day at St Martin's Saturday November 13



Following on from our Remember: Reflect: Restore time in June, and as part of St Martin's community outreach, we are organising a Centering Prayer Taster Day on Saturday, November 13 from 10.30am to 4.15pm.

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer where we consent to God's presence and action within. It is a movement away from more active modes of prayer into a receptive prayer of resting in God. It is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

This is rooted in the work of Fr. Thomas Keating, OCSO, one of the principal founders and teachers of Centering Prayer. Fr Thomas began this work in 1983 and it is now practised worldwide.

Taught by trained and commissioned presenters, including one of our own congregation, Dr Lynne Scholefield, the Taster Day will familiarise participants with the method of Centering Prayer and its roots in the Christian tradition, whilst offering two opportunities to experience the prayer.

Following the Taster Day, participants will be invited to attend six weekly, continuing, sessions, at St Martin's, which provide more background and the time to establish a personal Centering Prayer practice.

The Taster Day is open to people from other churches in the area and we hope that lots of people from our church will come and make our visitors welcome, as well as learning about Centering Prayer for themselves.

The cost for the day is £5.50 which includes coffee/tea and takeaway literature. For more information on Centering Prayer, please speak with Lynne Scholefield. To book your place at the Taster Day please contact Judith Mitchell at stmcenteringprayer@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

Giving to St Martin's and St Stephen on the Downs

For general and stewardship giving you can give online giving via the Charities Aid Foundation. Donations can be either a one-off donation or a regular donation using direct debit. To make a donation either:

1. Click on the following link:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377>

OR

2. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code below

There is also a "Donate" button on our website.



Cheques to St Martin's

If give a cheque donation to St Martin's Church, please can it payable to:
'The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom'

Donation Station

If you wish to give via contactless payment, please us the donation station in Church. You can give a pre-set amount or choose one. You can also gift aid your donation.

OTHER NOTICES

Harvest Thanksgiving

The Food Bank was very grateful once more for St Martin's and St Stephen's gifts of provisions at Harvest time. Likewise Care4Calais were delighted at such a generous response to the Afghan refugee crisis. The clothing is on its way to Calais, where it will undoubtedly help to relieve the hardship experienced by those who have lost their homes and livelihoods.

The Kids For Kids appeal drew a similarly generous response from our congregations, and excitement and gratitude from those at the charity itself. In total, including the Gift Aid addition, we were able to contribute the not insignificant amount of £518.75 to the project to sustain life in Dafur.

For these diverse expressions of gratitude for our harvest, may I add my own sincere thanks to those of the above charities. Thank you!

Laurence Impey

Congregation Emergency Contact

Further to the notice in the last two editions of the newsletter, Gina, the Parish Administrator has sent out a form to all who receive our newsletter by email asking for an emergency contact, so that should there be an issue we know who to contact. If you have received this and are willing, please complete the form. If you did not receive the form and would like to give the office your emergency contact, let the office know by telephone or email. Thank you.

Nick Parish

Sunday Coffee

Coffee and tea are served every Sunday morning after the 10.00am service. At the moment we have 14 volunteers which means we do it every 7 weeks. We have in the last 2 years lost 4 or 5 members due to ill health or moving away. It would be lovely if we could recruit some more volunteers (any age or sex), if you would be willing, please contact me. 01372 723675, maureensuatt@virginmedia.com

Maureen Suatt

Service of Thanksgiving and Memorial – Sunday 7th November at 6.30pm:

The annual Service of Thanksgiving and Memorial remembering those who have died will be at **6.30pm on Sunday 7th November.**



1. There will be a list out at the back of St Martin's Church throughout October for any member of the congregation to add any name that they wish to be remembered aloud at the service. There is also a list of the names read out at last years' service, please tick if you would like the name read out again this year. Please do not assume that any name will be carried over from a previous year.
2. Those who have had funerals associated with St Martin's over the past three years will be invited to the Service.
3. Anyone can add names at the back of the church on the day where one of the team will be ready and available from 6pm to complete the list. This will be taken to the dais during the opening hymn.

MISSION FOR THE MONTH

HOME MISSION

The Sunnybank Trust - supports people with learning disabilities and autism to say what they want and live the life they choose, through their range of services. Voices, Choices, Futures - providing advocacy and social opportunities and transitional support to young adults and their families leaving full time education.

Spinnaker Trust – Engaging, Inspiring, Equipping

The aim of this Christian charity is to support primary schools with assemblies and R.E. lessons. Locally they have worked at 11 schools in Epsom and Ewell.

They aim to inspire this generation of primary school children to engage with the Christian faith and explore its values.

ABROAD MISSION

St Martin's supports by annual donations many International Charities and Agencies, covering a wide range of needs, both practical and spiritual.

These include:

USPG(church in south India)

Barnabas Fund (suffering Christians in Syria)

AMECA (Malawi)

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Wheels for the World

Mercy Ships

The Leprosy Mission

Also including them in our Harvest and Christmas donations and collections.

Please hold them in your Prayers.

Jill Chapman - Mission

Flora Turner

We have been informed by Flora's son that she is now in the Beaumont Care Home and would welcome visitors. Please contact the home to make arrangements.

EVENTS AND MUSIC

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM THE EVENTS TEAM

We are really sorry to have to inform you that, with the ever-increasing number of Covid cases and continuing precautions needed, we very reluctantly have to cancel the Christmas Fair, due to be held on Saturday 27th November. We will also not be holding the Epiphany party in the New Year for the same reasons. The Beetle Drive was great fun for those who took part but there were only 10 of us. We would like to get some idea of your feelings about events in the near future so please fill in the anonymous questionnaire attached to this newsletter or pick up and complete a paper one from the back of church. The paper forms can be put in the labelled box or you can email your answers to one of the Events Team. We have some ideas for 2022 but would much appreciate your views so we can plan accordingly. Many thanks!

Events Team –

Alyson Aronson, Mary Holloway-Neville, Cathy Morris, Nancy Bluett

CHRISTMAS CARDS – ON SALE NOW

Christmas is coming!! I have set up my display of Christmas cards, candles and Advent Calendars. Please buy now while I have good stocks. Once I have sold out of a particular design, I may not be able to get any more. Everything will be on sale between now and Christmas.



Payment may be made in a variety of ways:

- Cheque: made payable to “The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom” (please either hand in to the office or place in the wall safe in church)
- Donation Station: contactless payments – please use the “Cards” button
- Cash: via the wall safe in church.

Every packet sold helps the church. Thank you for your custom.

Mary Holloway-Neville

5 DAY GIFT MARKET

TUESDAY 9th - SATURDAY 13th
NOVEMBER 2021

Open 10am to 5pm, 4pm Saturday
AT BOURNE HALL, EWELL

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FOR:

Originality, Quality, Usability,
Great Value and Good Service

New Stalls Added Daily

Bring leaflet
for discount on purchase

Email: giftmarket.2@yahoo.com

EASY & CHEAP CAR PARKING

FREE ENTRY

JS Bach: Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden
Pergolesi: Stabat Mater
Handel: Dixit Dominus

Baroque Splendour

Julian Collings Conductor • Miranda Heldt Soprano • Eleanor Ross Soprano
Beth Moxon Mezzo • Joe Doody Tenor • Jon Stainsby Bass
English Sinfonietta

Saturday 6th November 2021 at 7:30pm
St Martin's Parish Church, Church Street, Epsom KT17 4PX

For details about tickets, please see our website
www.epsomchoral.org.uk/next-concert

EPSOM CHORAL SOCIETY
Registered Charity No. 273757

Latest message from Food Bank

Wishlist: This week we need help with:

Urgent:

- Meat pies
- Tinned Fruit
- Powdered Milk
- Squash
- Shaving foam
- Noodles (dried egg/rise noodles or straight to wok)

Please, no more donations of the following items at this time:

- pasta,
- baked beans,
- porridge,
- baby shampoo,

- Coffee
- Sugar (500grs ideally)
- Bags for Life - we urgently need these
- Shower Gel
- Female & Male Deodorant
- Kids Toothbrushes

- tampons & sanitary towels,
- marmalade,
- cat/dog food,
- adult toothbrushes

You can donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Generation Resource Centre, (Behind West Ewell Primary School), Ruxley Lane, Ewell, KT19 0JG

Donation Drop Off Times: Monday to Friday 9am – 2pm

To give:

You can help by texting 70450 to donate:

Text **FOODBANKGIFT5** to donate £5

Text **FOODBANKGIFT15** to donate £15

Text **FOODBANKGIFT10** to donate £10

Text **FOODBANKGIFT20** to donate £20



CONTACT US

Parish Office:

Church House, Church Street, Epsom,

KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567

E-mail: stmartinsepsom@btconnect.com

Website: www.stmartinsepsom.org

**Opening hours are Mondays, Wednesday, Thursdays & Fridays
9.30am to 12.30pm**

The Revd Nick Parish – Vicar – 01372 743336

Email: vicar@stmartinsepsom.org

The Revd Canon Adrian Esdaile - Priest in Retirement - 01372 723770

Email: esdaileadrian@yahoo.co.uk

***(available for Contemplative Prayer, Counsel,
Spiritual Direction and the Healing Ministry)***

COLLECT

Blessed Lord,
 who caused all holy Scriptures to be
 written for our learning:
 help us so to hear them,
 to read, mark, learn and inwardly
 digest them
 that, through patience, and the
 comfort of your holy word,
 we may embrace and for ever hold
 fast the hope of everlasting life,
 which you have given us in our
 Saviour Jesus Christ,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD says this: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that

which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

PSALM Psalm 19:7-14

R *The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul.*

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
 the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
 the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes. **R**

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;
 the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey,
 than honey in the comb. **R**

By them also is your servant enlightened,
 and in keeping them there is great reward.
 Who can tell how often he offends?
 Cleanse me from my secret faults.
 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
 let them not get dominion over me;
 then shall I be whole and sound,
 and innocent of a great offence. **R**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
 be acceptable in your sight,
 O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or

unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

GOSPEL John 5:36b-47

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to the Jews: "I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent. You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

POST 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.

Sunday Homily

LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY/ BIBLE SUNDAY

24 OCTOBER 2021

YEAR B

“You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf.”

John 5:39

Illustration

Many of us have a deep longing for certainty. This is not necessarily wrong. So much of our lives and our world is in flux, and there seems so little that we can really rely on that it is hardly surprising if we want assurance that some things will never change. Nor is it surprising that, for many people, this place of assurance and certainty is their religious faith. God does not change, after all, so surely this eternal changelessness should be reflected in the Church? Even people who never set foot inside a church can get surprisingly angry and upset when there is news that their local parish church might close, or that there is to be a new translation of the Bible or the Lord’s Prayer. Some things just must not change.

But the trouble is that sometimes, if things are to continue to serve their original purpose, they have to change their form. Parish churches are built to house a worshipping community, and if the community has moved, then so must the building. It is not the building itself that matters, but the purpose for which it was designed.

Gospel Teaching

This is what Jesus is painstakingly trying to explain to his accusers in today’s Gospel, and it is part of a struggle for understanding that goes on throughout his ministry. In the earlier part of chapter 5 of John’s Gospel, Jesus has performed a miracle on the sabbath. He has healed a lame man, and caused great controversy by doing so. According to the strict letter of the Jewish scriptures, as they were then interpreted, Jesus should not have been doing this kind of thing on the official day of rest, and, in doing so, he was challenging the unchanging certainties by which his accusers lived.

But Jesus is trying to argue that, on the contrary, it is they who have changed what they inherited by refusing to allow it to adapt. The Law of Moses, handed down through generations, was designed to build a distinctive people, whose whole lifestyle and society would demonstrate the nature of God. The Law, and the scriptures that bear witness to it, are not ends in themselves, Jesus is arguing, but means to an end.

And, he says, with fierce clarity, they clearly are not serving the ends for which they were designed, because God's people do not know what God is like. If they did, they would recognise Jesus. They would recognise that what he did, what he taught, all that he was, was continuous with all that God's chosen people have always known about the nature of God, through their laws and their scriptures. Instead, they have allowed the laws to mask God, when they were designed to reveal him. They have become so attached to the letter of the Law that they have forgotten that the Law serves God, and that it will not act out of character. The Law must not be allowed to dictate the nature of God and what God will or will not do for his people. Jesus' accusers say that he is changing the Law, but really it is they who have changed it by applying it so strictly, so inhumanly, that it cannot any longer reveal the God who shaped it.

Application

It is a terrifying thought that we might be betraying God by what we see to be our faithfulness. Yet if we cling to certainties, rather than to God, that is almost bound to happen. The Bible, like the Law, bears witness to God. It is designed to show us the shape of lives lived in obedience to God. Scripture will not act in a way that is not characteristic of God, because it is God's tool. If we make it into a weapon of hatred, or division, or false reassurance, then we will be in danger of losing the ability to discern God.

Throughout the Bible, we see the nature of God displayed, culminating in Jesus. It is the Bible's job to help shape us into God's likeness, and we must not make it serve any other ends. The most damning thing that Jesus says to his questioners in today's Gospel is that it is Moses himself, the one they thought they were serving, who would condemn them for not recognising Jesus. How awful it would be if we found that we had used the scriptures, which we think we love, to hide the face of Jesus for our generation.

MONDAY
25 OCTOBERRomans 8:12-17
Psalm 68:1-6. 19
Luke 13:10-17**TUESDAY**
26 OCTOBERRomans 8:18-25
Psalm 126
Luke 13:18-21**WEDNESDAY**
27 OCTOBERRomans 8:26-30
Psalm 13
Luke 13:22-30**THURSDAY**
28 OCTOBER**Simon and
Jude, Apostles**
Isaiah 28:14-16
Psalm 119:89-96
Ephesians 2:19-end
John 15:17-end**FRIDAY**
29 OCTOBERRomans 9:1-5
Psalm 147:13-end
Luke 14:1-6**SATURDAY**
30 OCTOBERRomans 11:1-2.
11-12. 25-29
Psalm 94:14-19
Luke 14:1. 7-11

REFLECTION

Thursday is the festival of Simon and Jude, but most of the week's Gospel readings focus on the unexpected nature of the kingdom and on the acceptability of healing on the sabbath. Leaders

of the synagogue and the Pharisees object to Jesus curing people on the sabbath. They believe you should do no work on the day of rest. The particular Pharisees and leader of the synagogue we read about this week let their anxiety about following God's commandments get in the way of their compassion. They were probably also anxious about this person who spoke with such authority, but in words that were hard to understand.

The kingdom of heaven is paradoxical and strange – unsettling for anyone who has believed all their life that they understand what God wants. Small things like a mustard seed turn into something huge, and those who think they are first find they are last. Some people understand more easily than others, but great and small, we can all be accepted if we have ears to hear.

PRAYER

Lord, help us to understand your words about the kingdom,
and give us the language to help others to see it too.
May we find joy in its paradoxes that turn our world upside down,
but bring healing and wholeness to those who suffer.



PART XXXVIII – ZECHARIAH – A BOOK ABOUT RENEWAL

Georgina Byrne continues our book-by-book series about the Bible.

“Thus says the Lord of hosts: My cities shall again overflow with prosperity; the Lord will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem.” Zechariah 1:17

Zechariah is regarded as the companion book to Haggai, which immediately precedes it. Indeed, they share similar convictions and were written at the same time. Whereas the shorter Haggai is a call to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, Zechariah’s vision is more expansive, concerning the general restoration of Judah and the renewal of God’s people.

Like Haggai, this prophet speaks to those returning from decades of exile in Babylon. Zechariah is the grandson of Iddo, the head of a priestly family. He notes at the beginning that, whereas former prophets spoke of God’s anger and punishment, now the message is one of reconciliation: “Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you.”

The book has two distinct parts, which leads some to conclude that it has two authors. The first half contains a series of eight visions, where Zechariah engages with angels or “men of God” who explain what he sees. The vivid imagery demonstrates that God will comfort Zion and provide protection, God will be a “wall of fire” around the city, and “the glory within it.” The high priest, Joshua, will be restored and the governor, Zerubbabel, who rebuilt the Temple, will be elevated. Evil and falsehood will have no place in the restored land and, once they are cast out, God’s envoys, the four winds, will stand guard against them.

This is powerful imagery of a nation so much at peace, so thriving and beloved, that other nations will long to seek the favour their God (8:22-23).

The second half of the Zechariah contains two oracles, different in tone, but echoing something of what has gone before. Again, there are words of comfort – some very familiar: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion...” (9:9) and a sense of prosperity and a bright future. Mixed into this, though, are warnings, also familiar, to the leaders who, as shepherds of God’s people, are to take care in tending this treasured flock.

LIVE theWORD

SUSTAINING YOU
THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
Caroline Hodgson
and
Heather Smith



Last week
after Trinity

Monday 25 October
to Saturday
30 October 2021

WEEK

A matter of taste

Ricarda Witcombe *reflects on*
Psalm 34:1-8. 19-22

Psalm 34 is an acrostic poem: each line begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In fact, Psalm 25 is the same and they form a pair: Psalm 25 is a prayer for help; Psalm 34 is a thanksgiving for help.

Each psalm gives an ordered shape into which we can place our own experience. Our difficulties are not denied, the psalm tells of fears and troubles. It also speaks of the closeness of God in the midst of life. It is a psalm of trust. The writer has sought God in a time of fear, and God has drawn near and delivered them.

Unlike Psalm 22 where the experience is of abandonment, this writer knows that their cries of distress are heard. In fact, the experience is of being encircled in safety by the angel of the Lord. So this psalm calls us all to "taste and see that the Lord is good".

When we taste something, we try it for ourselves and learn what it is like. It is deeply personal, and the act of tasting itself is one of absolute trust. May we too dare to trust the goodness of God, and find the same refuge for our battered lives. 🍷



Crispin and Crispinian

by Caroline Hodgson

Saints Crispin and Crispinian are commemorated in the *Common Worship* lectionary tomorrow. They are thought to have been twin brothers, born to a noble Roman family in the third century. It is said that they fled persecution for their faith and ended up at Soissons, to the north-east of Paris. In imitation of St Paul they worked with their hands, making shoes and earning enough to support themselves and help those who were poor. They preached Christianity to the

Gauls during the day and made shoes by night.

During the Diocletian persecution they were brought before Maximianus Herculius, the co-emperor. At first he tried to turn them from their faith with promises and threats, but they replied, "Thy threats do not terrify us, for Christ is our life, and death is our gain." They were tortured and thrown into the river with millstones around their necks, but managed to swim to the opposite riverbank. Eventually, however, they were beheaded at the command of Maximianus in around AD 285. They are the patron saints of cobblers, curriers, tanners and leather workers. 🍷

“The Bible without the Holy Spirit is a sundial by moonlight.”

Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899), American evangelist and publisher

Faithful God, in the turbulence of our lives may we know the peace that comes from trusting in your goodness and may our own souls find refuge in the assurance of your love. Amen.

Food in the Bible

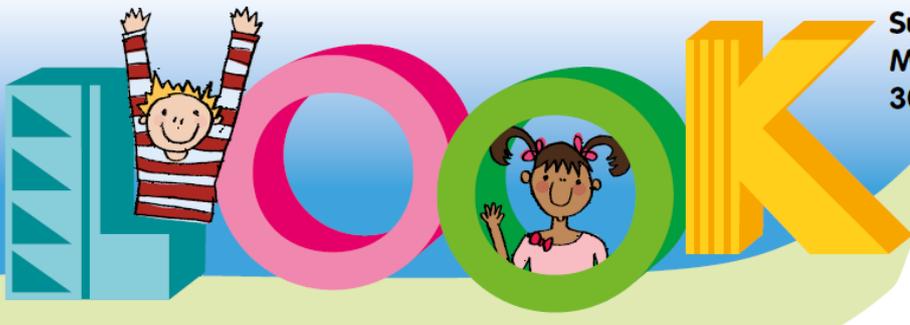
by Caroline Fletcher

Fig leaves are large, making them a good choice for Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness (Genesis 3:7). Their large abundant foliage also means fig trees provide shelter from the sun. This is probably why the disciple Nathanael was sitting under one when Jesus noticed him (John 1:48).

The story of Jesus cursing a fig tree for not bearing fruit outside

the fig season (Mark 11:12-14) puzzles many. However, the tree looked as if it might be fruitful because it was already in leaf. Jesus' curse may, then, have been a warning about the dangers of only appearing to be spiritually fruitful and not genuinely so.

Fresh figs don't keep, so they were dried and squashed together into clumps called "cakes". These must have been tasty, for Abigail persuaded David not to attack her people by offering him 200 fig cakes (1 Samuel 25:18). Less appetisingly, figs were applied as a healing poultice to King Hezekiah's boil (2 Kings 20:7). 🍷



Sunday 24 October 2021
 Mark 10:46-52
 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

My name is _____

Bartimaeus wants to see again. Jesus wants to help him and listens to his calls for help. Bartimaeus knows Jesus loves him and he trusts Jesus. As soon as Jesus heals him, Bartimaeus leaves his old life and follows Jesus.

TRUST JESUS!

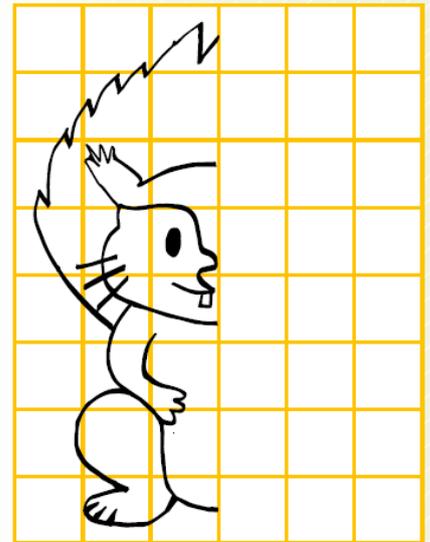
Maze

After he was healed Bartimaeus followed Jesus along the road. Help Bartimaeus follow Jesus along the path to eternal life.



What can you see?

We have to look very carefully if we are going to see everything properly.



Use the grid to make the whole squirrel.

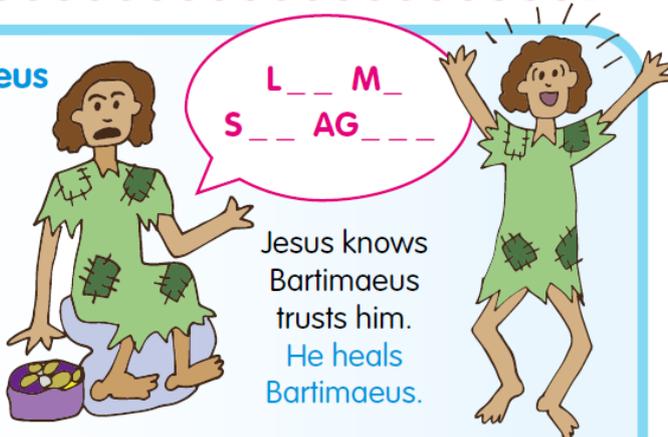
Word search Can you find these words?

- CROWD
- BLIND
- CURED
- JESUS
- CALL
- FOLLOW

C	R	O	W	D
U	J	Q	O	N
R	E	C	L	I
E	S	A	L	L
D	U	L	O	B
P	S	L	F	Y

Here is Bartimaeus

He is blind. Bartimaeus has to ask other people for money to buy food. Bartimaeus knows Jesus can help him. Write what you think he is saying in his speech bubble.



Jesus knows Bartimaeus trusts him. He heals Bartimaeus.

Bartimaeus can see!

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, thank you for hearing me when I call for help. Help me to trust in you and know that you are always there. Amen.

Answers: LET ME SEE AGAIN