

**St Mary's News November 2024**

We had the pleasure of hearing the Venerable Jane Proudfoot our new Archdeacon, preach at St Mary’s on Sunday. It was great to have her here for the first time, and to share a warm St Mary’s welcome. The reading she preached on was the story of blind Bartimaeus.  It's a story we know well.

A large crowd gathers and the noise is overwhelming, no doubt everyone pushing to see Jesus, to grab his attention and to ask for some sort of healing or favour. Out of the crowd comes a shout, one loud voice which the people are trying to contain, a man they are trying to shut up. Bartimaeus was doing everything he could to get the attention of Jesus and was making quite a nuisance of himself.  Who did this man think he was? Blind, a beggar, trying to be heard above the din?  Some of the folk in the crowd would have known him, or at least known of him by which I mean would have passed by when they saw him begging on the street, maybe throwing him their loose change from time to time.  Just who did he think he was?

Typical Jesus, somehow tunes in to his voice, tells everyone to shut up and hears what he has to say. Suddenly the crowd are interested, and their reaction is fascinating.

'Cheer up! On your feet!'

Suddenly, they want to know, they want to see some sort of miracle, something which will amaze.

Bartimaeus is, or course, healed. His years of being on the outside, experiencing life as an outcast, less than, untouchable and unclean, had come to an end. How he must have gone home rejoicing! What I love is the response of the crowds; 'Cheer up! On your feet!'

How many times have I needed to hear that when times are hard, or when we look at the world and despair?  It feels like we are standing on the edge of a momentous time as we go into Autumn this year. We are yet to hear the budget in the UK, the U.S. election is almost upon us, and the wars in Gaza and Ukraine seems to be reaching a point of no return. All can seem rather dark and frightening. And yet, we are called afresh by our reading on Sunday to take heart, to stand up for what we believe in, to be beacons of light and hope in a world which seems hopeless.

So my questions for you this month are these:

* Are we hopeful for the future?
* Are we standing up for truth and justice?
* Are we shouting loud enough?

For my part, I am hopeful. I feel a tide of righteousness across the world sick of the oppression of the poor and the weak and a yearning for truth and right-ness, if I can put it that way. Am I shouting loud enough? No, I am not.  As blind Bartimaeus shouted, jumped up and down, pushed through the hoards to be seen and heard, so must we. Somehow, we must find the courage to speak the truth and change the world.

So, I challenge you (and myself) this month to find new ways of spreading hope, to stand up and to shout and to change the world.

**With every blessing.

Rev. Canon Nathan Jarvis**

**Church news November 2024**

Yes, it’s nearly Christmas (again) with all the excitement, family, too much food but also a time to enjoy singing Carols & seeing the Church “dressed up”. As ever, Michael and team make our Church a special place to spend time in December, there will be all the usual services, more next month.

The Confirmation service was a fantastic success, Bishop Sam officiated in fine style and all the best to those confirmed. A huge thanks to the Maynards (particularly Jules) who fed the congregation afterwards…also to Debs for organisation, as well as supply of blankets in leu of heat! The Harvest service in the morning, rather “knocked out” our poorly Rector, so Loveday stepped in to cover the evening, with the Deanery Choir making it a very special evening.

**We now have heat in the Church**, after some “maintenance” on our elderly boiler, the engineer who attended was clear that it is coming to the end of its life. Changing the boiler is difficult as the Church wants us to use “clean” energy…however, we are still trying to find a solution! **Our appeal for both the clock and replacement heating system continues, see Will Ablett for details…. or simply donate via the usual methods.** After our October Walk in the Peak District, we visited Wormhill Church, near Tideswell, to view their under-pew heating, arranged and catered for by Barry Pierson (you’ll know him as the owner of Delilah, the Great Dane!) who also happens to be Wormhill’s Warden.

**Diary dates**

* Sunday 27th October 9.45am ***Ven Jane Proudfoot Archdea****con*
* Friday 1st November 6.30pm **ALL SOULS SERVICE**
* Sunday 3rd November 9.45am **BCP** *Nathan*
* Tuesday 12th November **Coffee at De Trafford Arms**, Alderley 10.30am
* Sunday 10th November 10.30am **Remembrance service**
* Saturday 23rd November **Walking group** led by **Madeleine**
* Sunday 17th November 9.45am **BCP *Linda***
* Sunday 24th November 9.45am **BCP *Nathan***
* Sunday 1st December 9.45am ***Nathan***

On Friday 1st November we have the **All Souls Service at 6.30 pm in the evening**. This is one of our most popular and poignant services, at which we commemorate family, friends and loved ones who have passed away.

Finally make sure you get a few December dates in your diary, **9 Lessons and Carols is on 8/12 at 5pm, Christmas drinks at the Rectory at 6pm on 22/12 with the crib service at 2.30pm and Midnight Mass at 10.30pm on Christmas eve**. Usual Christmas Day service at 9.45am.