

# The Bewsborough Parish Post

A newsletter for the Churches in Barfreestone,  
Coldred, Eythorne & Elvington with Waldershare,  
Shepherdswell and Whitfield



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## Lectionary Readings:

### Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine - the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

### Revelation 21:1-6a

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne

saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life."

### John 11:32-44

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come

and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

# Sunday Sermon

## Sermon for All Saints – given by Revd. Harvey Richardson

*'...since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...' Hebrews 12:1-2*

Think about these two images:

1. An Olympic stadium packed to overflowing, with everyone urging us on in our Christian faith as we run the race of life (as in Hebrews, above)
2. A Penny Farthing bicycle, with wheels absurdly out of proportion.

Take four little words, found in the Bible –

**Love, World, All, Faith** – and see if they need enlarging, to help us get our balance.

### **Love:**

Our understanding of God's Love needs enlarging.

*'Love divine, all loves excelling...Pure unbounded love thou art'* we have just sung.

We forget that the Universe is created by God out of unbounded love.

We forget that the SAINTS are those who share in this pure unbounded love of God. At this time of year we remember the saints as those who have lived among us, riding on a huge wheel of LOVE, wrestling with it - the very same LOVE divine seen, and enfleshed in Jesus Christ. [Not those crusty old, holy, untouchable, 'holier than thou', remote, miracle workers!]

The Saints with their LOVE are encouraging us to live our Christian lives, cheering from their Olympic stands.

### **World:**

As COP26 begins, we are encouraged to expand our understanding of the WORLD, our Planet Earth, the vast beautiful & mysterious Universe in which we move and have our being.

We must pray with the Pope for radical changes of world economic and environmental policies, yes –

But we must also pray for an increase of pure unbounded perfect LOVE in the hearts and minds of those gathering in Glasgow.

- Pray that they will love the planet more
- Pray that they will earnestly desire life to flourish, not to be sacrificed
- Pray that love will cast out all political ambition, competition, power, superiority, authority
- Pray that world leaders will be *emptied of all but love* – just as Christ humbled himself of all but love (Phillipians 2:7), stripping off all selfishness and power. In other words -to become saints.

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We crave for a bigger world, with a bigger heart: that's my prayer today, at this momentous time.

### **All:**

This tiny word, like the farthing on our bicycle, is so small it takes no time at all to say it, write it, text it – but we urgently need to enlarge it way beyond all its size and capacity!

Why was All Saints' Day John Wesley's favourite day of the year? Surely because he celebrated ALL those who live their lives in the unbounded, pure, perfect love of God.

Wesley's desire to spread holiness through the land was driven by the conviction that *all people can be saved, all people can know they are saved, all people can be saved to the uttermost*.

The preceding Chapter 11 in our Hebrews text has a catalogue of OT heroes who modelled their lives on God's universal love.

So ALL - Jew, Gentile....Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, fellow Christian, atheist, agnostic, non-religious..... all who are driven by God's love are urging us on our journey.

We, in the Church, need to expand our awareness as we recognize Christlike loving kindness, wherever and in whomsoever this unbounded love is expressed.....

ALL the Saints!

### **Faith:**

Here's a word so hard to define – large or small.

We, too often, have a small 'stoical' understanding of FAITH – *grit your teeth when troubles come, keep calm and carry on!*

But FAITH is not just a matter of accepting certain ideas, or having a 'blind faith' which fills the great chasms of fear and emptiness in our lives.

FAITH is the *work* of LOVE – sharing in the way Christ loves us and the whole world. Because LOVE is so big, it needs to be 'worked at', especially when there's darkness all around.

That's faith – (and that's saintliness too!)

### **Conclusion:**

Perhaps we need a **Quad Bike**, not a **Penny Farthing**!

All our four words – LOVE, WORLD, ALL, FAITH – need to be the right scale, but I can't help feeling that the pure unbounded LOVE of God revealed in Jesus Christ needs to be much bigger, and wholly out of all proportion to the rest.

Our world, and the Church too, are like rusty old rickety Penny Farthings, declining and diminishing at an alarming rate, so worrying and so difficult to manage and get hold of;

But that great cloud of witnesses, all the saints which no-one can number, are urging us all on today to be *more loving* in this challenging, demanding, Covid-ridden world.

**Sunday Sermons Available Online on the usual link:**

**[Sunday Sermons](#)**



# Sunday Worship

## Sunday November 7th - Third before Advent

09:00	St. Nicholas Barfrestone	Morning Prayer	Jenny Groombridge
10:30	St. Andrew Shepherdswell	Holy Communion	Rev. Stewart Carolan-Evans
10.30	Whitfield Village Hall 'Let's Celebrate'	Contemporary Family Service	Rev. Sean Sheffield Derek Bilbrough Team

## Sunday November 14th - Second before Advent - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

09:00	St. Nicholas Barfrestone	Service with Act of Remembrance and Holy Communion	Rev. Sean Sheffield
10:30	St. Pancras Coldred	Community Service of Remembrance	Rev. Brian Duckworth
10:30	War Memorial Eythorne & Elvington	Community Service of Remembrance	Rev. Nigel Richardson Jenny Groombridge
10:30	St. Andrew Shepherdswell	Community Service of Remembrance	Rev. Stewart Carolan-Evans
10:30	War Memorial Whitfield	Community Service of Remembrance	Rev. Sean Sheffield Derek Bilbrough

## Sunday November 21st - Sunday before Advent - CHRIST THE KING

09:00	St. Nicholas Barfrestone	BCP Morning Prayer	Jan Griffin
10:30	St. Peter & St. Paul Eythorne & Elvington	Service of the Word	Derek Bilbrough Rev. Sean Sheffield
10.30	St. Peter Whitfield	Holy Communion	Rev. Brian Duckworth

## Sunday November 28th - Advent 1

09:00	St. Pancras Coldred	Holy Communion	Rev. Sean Sheffield
10:30	St. Peter & St. Paul Eythorne & Elvington	Holy Communion	Rev. Sean Sheffield
10:30	St. Andrew Shepherdswell	Service of the Word	Rev. Stewart Carolan-Evans

[Zoom](#) Sunday Morning Worship Livestream

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86183362900?pwd=SE9nSCTyaE5tbGticzZBVnA5Ty9oQT09>

Meeting ID: 861 8336 2900 Passcode: 558371



Thanks to Jan Griffin for sharing this photo from All Soul's at St Andrew's, Shepherdswell:





## Peace Service

On UN Day, 24th October, the annual service for peace was held in Canterbury Cathedral as part of Evensong. It was a spirit-filled occasion, supported by Canterbury Climate Action Partnership and many local groups who support peace. The theme was sustainability, coming as it did just before COP26. Bishop Rose spoke powerfully about how every one of us can contribute and do our bit to protect our planet. We sang Graham Kendrick's "Beauty for brokenness" where one verse reads:

"Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,  
Plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams  
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed,  
Make us content with the things that we need."

Eleanor



## Prayer Support

No matter how big or small our worries seem, God's help is just a prayer away.

If you'd like someone to pray with or for you, please get in touch with Revd. Sean on 07710 423432 or by email on [rev.sean.sheffield@bewsboroughparish.org](mailto:rev.sean.sheffield@bewsboroughparish.org)

Please also get in touch if you know of others who need prayer support.

Please send all articles, suggestions, recipes, prayer requests, content, pictures or anything else you would like to share with the Parish to Ruth at the office email address:

[parish.office@bewsboroughparish.org](mailto:parish.office@bewsboroughparish.org)