

Sunday 25th October 2020

Little Paxton Church

9.15am – 9.45am: Morning Prayer

Great Paxton Church

10.30am – 11.00am: Morning Prayer

Wednesday 28th October 2020

Please note, no service at Little Paxton Church.

**Our annual service for All Souls takes place at
Little Paxton Church on Sunday November 1st at 3.00pm.
If you would like the name of a loved one read out, please
do let Annette know.**

Prayer Space

Collect for the last Sunday after Trinity and Bible Sunday

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. Amen.

Your light is the only light I need
as I travel through life's mystery.

Your word the only voice I hear,
that still small voice that leads me
to the place where I should be.

Your presence is the only company I need,
as I walk this narrow road.

Your fellowship the warmth I crave
to help me on my way.

Amen.

FOUR

**Sunday 25th October 2020: The last Sunday after Trinity
The Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe
“Keeping in Touch” Edition 31**



Greetings Everyone!

In case you have forgotten, we should have turned back our clocks and watches by an hour at midnight. We “gain” 60 minutes and maybe have a whole extra hour in bed? We find that evening daylight shrinks and it’s another marker that autumn is wrapping round us, along with the turning shades of leaves and chilly mornings. I realise that I need a new pair of warm walking boots and my greyhound needs her house coat at night. And, can you believe it, the Church’s year announces that it is the last Sunday after Trinity. November 1st brings us All Saints Day closely followed by All Souls, with the theme of remembering continuing with Remembrance Sunday on November 8th. Soon we will be heading towards “Sundays before Advent!”

October 25th, as well as being the Last Sunday in the series of Sundays after Trinity, is sometimes known as Bible Sunday. A day when we give thanks for the incredible books of the bible and how they have shaped faith and indeed culture and the arts, as well as law making, for centuries. We may understand some of the ancient texts in different ways than some of our ancestors did, but the fundamentals remain very much the same. The Bible tells us of God’s deep love for his creation and human beings whom he fashioned in his own image. It tells us how, when things went badly wrong, he came to earth in human form to reach out his hand of salvation and healing to a world in pain. Which brings us to the wonderful message of Christmas – which will not be cancelled this year!

Look after yourselves in these autumnal days, keep well, and if you feel a listening ear may help, do get in contact.

With love and prayers, Annette. 01480 211048.

Email canonannettereed@gmail.com

ONE

Today's Readings

1 Thessalonians 2 v 1-8

You know, brothers and sisters, that our work was not without results. We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel.

We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed. We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority.

Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

Matthew Chapter 22:34-36

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?'

He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?'

They said to him, 'The son of David.'

He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet'"? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?'

No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

TWO

Reflections from Annette

Early this week, I switched on the TV and caught the last few minutes of an item about stonemasons working on Salisbury Cathedral.

The stonemason's craft has existed since the dawn of civilisation, with buildings, structures and sculpture all being created using stone from the earth. Salisbury Cathedral is only one of nine English Cathedrals to have its own Works Yard and isn't it fascinating to learn that 150 million-year-old Jurassic limestone is still used for construction and conservation?

As with any large historic building, there is a continual need to restore and maintain the fabric and this can, of course, require robust financial input. So many of our parish churches are continually seeking funding for repairs, and to be realistic, most of the costs are found from grant making bodies. That certainly is the case with our four benefice churches.

Watching a female stonemason talking about her work at Salisbury was fascinating. Did you know that often on stonework in churches or cathedrals, you find deeply carved initials? An example on the TV programme showed the letter 'A'. Certainly, masons' marks are to be found inside and outside Little Paxton Church – along with a lot of equally fascinating graffiti, which is another absorbing subject.

Apparently, these masons' marks were called bankers' marks and were put there to prove that a certain mason had been engaged on a project and would require paying for their skilled labours. Maybe too, masons liked to have their name engraved into stone for posterity. I often stare at the initials left us on the lower part of the south side of Little Paxton Tower – dated in the 1700's – and wonder who they were and what life was like for these men.

Which leads me to wonder – what impression do we make as we journey through life? What impressions do we leave on the minds and in the hearts of those we meet and spend our days? What impression do we leave on our communities and the groups and organisations we may be part of?

Recently, I have been privileged to be part of two funeral services where those being remembered have left a deep impression on those who loved and knew them. A life well lived is a beautiful thing and I believe endures for ever deep in the heart of God's being.

As we move into the reflective season of remembrance, it could be a fruitful time to ask ourselves what impressions we are leaving behind as we tread the path of life day by day.

THREE

