



**Benefice of Bildeston w Wattisham, Lindsey, Whatfield and Semer,
Nedging and Naughton.**



BENEFICE CHURCH NEWSLETTER
REV JACKIE SEPTON, ASSOCIATE PRIEST
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:31

Following the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus sends his disciples in a boat to the other side of the lake. He dismisses the crowd and retreats up the mountain to pray. When evening comes, he is alone but the disciples are being battered by a storm on the lake. As morning comes they see Jesus walking towards them on the water. They are afraid but Peter with his eyes on Jesus gets out of the boat and walks towards him. His eyes take notice of the strong wind and Peter begins to sink. Jesus reaches out his hand to hold him safe. How many times has Jesus reached out his hands to us, to lift us up to be by his side. Jesus has faith for all of us, there is no need for us to doubt. We are safe in His hands.

Each Sunday until the end of August the benefice Sunday Services will take place at St Mary Magdalene Church, Bildeston commencing at 11am.

There will be no 'Live Streaming' of this service today, due to our Rector being on holiday until Sunday 16th August 2020.

Today we must all wear face covering in our services and continue to follow the government guidance on social distancing (2 metre rule), hand hygiene and other appropriate guidance on meeting for public worship. Unfortunately, no singing is permitted at present. **"All are welcome"**, remember to consider carefully though if you are in the clinically extreme category whether it is advisable for you attend a service at present.

Bible Study:

Every **Tuesday in July and until 18 August at 2pm**, there is a bible study group via Zoom led by our Reader Teresa Lester. Each session will be hosted by a member of the Ministry Team, please join us when you can, see link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71178092760?pwd=dTVKQ0g1ZG9CcUE0dFpVM2pXZU1QZz09>



All churches in this benefice are now open for **private prayer**, the day and times are on their Church Near You.

We will continue with our **Benefice Prayer Meetings on Tuesdays at 11am** via Zoom throughout the summer. All are welcome to join us, please see link

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77278907806?pwd=L0M4NEhIQ2M1WDBROEY0TURFdEE1UT09>

As we pray in our homes and churches, please pray for the following:

- We pray for today's Sunday Holy Communion Morning Worship Service in church and pray for all who can attend as well as those watching from home.
- In our cycle of prayer for our benefice we pray today for our community of Whatfield, for our churchwarden Chris Armour and all those who hold responsibility for St Margaret's Church.
- We continue to pray and assist all our village support groups.



- We pray for our farmers and give thanks for them as they are harvesting.
- We pray for all those who must have hospital treatment for a variety of reasons.
- Remember and pray for all those who are ill or bereaved in our villages.
- We pray for all those who are on or going on holiday, help them be wise and keep safe.
- We pray for the Ministry Team here in this benefice, give us guidance and strength as we take things forward.
- For all our churches in this Benefice, Deanery, Diocese, and wider church, as we begin to re-establish in the coming months how we worship together.

Prayers and Readings for Today

The Collect

Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings for This Sunday:

First Reading

Salvation Is for All

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" *Romans 10:5-15*

Gospel Reading

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." *Matthew 14:22-33*

