



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

7th September 2025 - Trinity 12

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

“Every day is a school day” – I say that quite a lot and it’s a cliché that holds a great deal of truth. All sorts of events and conversations can teach us valuable lessons. Getting things really wrong is another way in which we (I) can sometimes learn – to the extent that I once had a note over my desk that said “I’ve learned so much from my mistakes – I think I’ll make some more!”

Human nature being what it is, learning from our own actions is one thing – but it’s far more difficult to learn from someone else’s experience. Nonetheless, this week I have learned some lessons that I want to share as widely as possible. I try to avoid ‘preaching’ as much as I can in this newsletter – but this week I feel obliged to preach.

Candles! Please, please take care with candles in your home (and in church.) However nice they smell, however pretty they are, please take care. If you are preparing for power cuts, keep a torch handy, rather than a candle. The Fire Service have information on candle safety on their website, some of which might sound obvious, but still important – including:

- Place candles in a suitable position, never place candles near flammable materials.
- Keep out of draughts and away from curtains, other fabrics or furniture which could catch fire.
- Make sure they are fully extinguished before leaving the room or when disposing of them.
- Always use non-combustible, sturdy holders and do not leave lit candles unattended. Be especially careful with night lights and tea lights which can get hot enough to melt plastic such as the top of a television or the side of a bath.
- Keep the candles out of reach of children and pets - they should be secured in an upright position.
- Place scented candles in a suitable container that can withstand the heat of the liquid and will not leak as it turns to liquid in order to release the fragrance.
- Use a snuffer or spoon to extinguish a candle, blowing them out could send sparks and hot wax flying.

Do you have internal fire doors in your home? They are only useful in a fire if they are closed to contain the fire. This is why they are often fitted with self-closing fixtures. These can make a vital difference during a fire – and be really annoying to live with the rest of the time. Which is why they are often disconnected – you may have disconnected your own. Please don’t. Please get them reconnected, and your fire doors workable. This week I have learned the potentially life-saving difference that working self-closing fire-doors can make – it’s frighteningly striking when you see it – and I’m passing on the lesson wherever I can.

Again, this is not a usual focus for this newsletter, but I start each week with the hope that everyone reading this is safe and well. The safety and health of congregations and parishioners is a focus of my prayers too – and I have received such a stark lesson in safety this week that I would be failing if I didn’t try to hand it on.

With every blessing

Anne

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Events and Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio

Toastie and Warm at St Martin's On Tuesday afternoons the Narthex at St Martin's is a busy and welcoming space. From 1pm there is a Bible Study, and from 2pm there is a coffee afternoon, full of conversations and information, with chocolate biscuits and, usually, home-made cakes. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Catching up with friends – or making new ones!

Young at Heart - Second Thursday of each month – Lunch together in the church hall. Please email or phone Home Instead to book. 01432 804000 or info.hereford@homeinstead.co.uk

Third Thursday of each month at 2pm – Meeting in St. Martin's Church – talks, games, refreshments and friendship – everyone welcome!

Services at Belmont Community Centre

If you live in or near Belmont and find the journey to St Martin's difficult, or if Sunday mornings are not easy for you, you might like to join us for Friday Communion at Belmont Community Centre.

We celebrate a said service of Holy Communion at 12:30pm on the Second and Fourth Fridays of each month, following FoodShare. Everyone is very welcome to this service. The hall has level access and good ventilation – and if the weather is good we celebrate outside.

You are warmly invited to the
Welcome Service

For
Revd Lauren Bell

Sunday 7th September 4pm
St James Church, Canons Road WA5 1EU

with
The Rt Revd Ruth Worsley,
Bishop of Wigan.

and
The Venerable Simon Fisher,
Archdeacon of St. Helens & Warrington.

 **stjames
CHURCH 2025**
YEAR OF CONNECTION
Church - Community - Christ

St. Barnabas



A finger buffet will be provided afterwards.

Please RSVP to info@stjameschurch.info

Bus Transport to Lauren's Welcome Service in Warrington

Leaving St Martin's after Church on Sunday 7th September, returning that evening at approximately 9pm. Cost £20 per head, payable to the office before travel.

Please sign up in church or through the office before Wednesday 3rd September

For details contact Marlene Price or Rev. Anne (office@stmartinshereford.org.uk)

South Wye Services

Through the Week:	8pm	Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's FB page
Sunday	9:30am	Holy Communion at St. Martin's (streamed on St. Martin's FB page)
	11.15am	Morning Prayer at St. Peter's, Bullinghope
Thursday	10am	Said Communion in St. Martin's Lady Chapel

Sunday Services online

Diocese of Hereford Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.

Church of England National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

TV and Radio on Sunday;

Radio 4	8.10am	Sunday Worship – Saints and Song
BBC 1	2.15pm	Songs of Praise – Faith in the Countryside

For our Prayers

Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:

Brenda Baylis	Irene F	Margaret	Charlie	Sue	Vickie
Maureen Gerard	Peter	Mike	Karen	Nathan	Colin
Rachel	Katie	Simon	Eddie	June M	Marie
Mandy	Shelley				

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Andrew Ley Margaret S.. John Kathryn Reginald and Madge Pamela and John P..
Linda

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Southern Africa : Most Reverend Dr. Thabo Makgoba

Hereford: Pray for the Deanery of Leominster – Mark Long (Rural Dean); Paul Roberts (Assistant Rural Dean); Lydia Davies (Lay Chair) for its parishes, chaplaincies, schools and community ministries

Porvoo: Church of England: Diocese of Salisbury, Bishop Stephen Lake, Bishop Andrew Rumsey, Bishop Karen Gorham; Church in Wales: Diocese of St Asaph, Bishop Gregory Cameron

South Wye: Pray for those who live or work in Bennett Drive, Woodhouse Way, Lewes Road, Park View, The Ploughman, Campbell Close, St. Martins Court, Bluebell Walk, May Blossom, Ramsay Close

The Wider View: Pray for reconciliation in communities recovering from conflict or trauma; for international peacebuilding agencies Pray for staff and pupils in schools and colleges as term begins; for new challenges and renewed friendships

Collect for Trinity 12

God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for Trinity 12

Jeremiah 18: 1-11 18 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: 2 'Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.' 3 So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. 4 The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. 5 Then the word of the LORD came to me: 6 Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. 7 At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, 8 but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. 9 And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, 10 but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. 11 Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18

1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; ♦
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place ♦ and are acquainted with all my ways.
3 For there is not a word on my tongue, ♦ but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
4 You encompass me behind and before ♦ and lay your hand upon me.
5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, ♦ so high that I cannot attain it.
12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; ♦ you knit me together in my mother's womb.
13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made ♦ marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
14 My frame was not hidden from you ♦ when I was made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; ♦ already in your book were all my members written,
16 As day by day they were fashioned ♦ when as yet there was none of them.
17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God! ♦ How great is the sum of them!
18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand ♦ and at the end, I am still in your presence.
19 O that you would slay the wicked, O God, ♦ that the bloodthirsty might depart from me!
20 They speak against you with wicked intent; ♦ your enemies take up your name for evil.
21 Do I not oppose those, O Lord, who oppose you? ♦ Do I not abhor those who rise up against you?
22 I hate them with a perfect hatred; ♦ they have become my own enemies also.
23 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; ♦ try me and examine my thoughts.
24 See if there is any way of wickedness in me ♦ and lead me in the way everlasting.

Luke 14: 25-33 25 Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, 26 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." 31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation

and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Philemon 1-21 ¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. ⁸ For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. ²² One thing more—prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you. ²³ Epaphras, my fellow-prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow-workers. ²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Bible Study based on Philemon 1-21

Bible notes

Philemon is Paul's shortest, most personal letter. It is addressed to Philemon, a slave-owning Christian whose slave Onesimus ran away, possibly as a result of some offence, and has found his way to Paul, who is in prison. Onesimus has also now become a Christian, and is close to Paul who describes him as 'my child' (v.10). Paul would like to continue their companionship, but has decided to send him back to his owner for his agreement.

The puzzle surrounds what Paul is asking Philemon to do. Paul's style is diplomatic – Martin Luther described it as 'holy flattery'. Onesimus was not of great use previously (v.11), but his conversion has changed everything. Paul would like to have Onesimus back by his side. This depends on whether Philemon is willing to accept Paul's offer to recompense him for any offence from Onesimus (v.16) – Paul exerts pressure by highlighting that Philemon is in debt to him even for his life (v.19), as the one who brought him to Christ. But Paul also invites Philemon to recognise Onesimus as a 'brother' in the Lord. Some scholars see a hint here that Philemon should set Onesimus free, now that they are both Christians, for how can a Christian who says 'Jesus is Lord' also say to a human master 'You are my lord'? If Paul implies this (cf 1 Corinthians 7:21-24), then there are challenging implications for

Philemon – if he owns other slaves who may be, or become, Christians – and for other slave-owning Christians.

The letter depends on an understanding of humanity renewed in Christ, so that secondary characteristics such as slavery are washed away in baptism and we become one in Christ (Galatians 3:28). The bonds of the new family lead to obligations to care for each other and offer each other hospitality, in a new community that is markedly different from a society divided between slave and free. Both slave and owner need to navigate new relationships, respecting each other as siblings in Christ.

We do not know how this story ended, but perhaps the survival of the letter suggests that Philemon understood and accepted Paul's request and could be proud of their ongoing relationship.

Reflection

When have you interceded on behalf of someone else? Paul was in prison, but out of love he intercedes on behalf of Onesimus. Where you see injustice, do you find ways of acting in love, for example by writing to your MP, collecting for a food bank or raising money for charity? Stepping out in this way means risking standing out from the crowd. If Philemon did take Onesimus back, if he freed him from slavery, this would have had lasting effects on his status in the community. How does the cost of following Jesus affect us in our daily lives?

Questions for reflection

You may wish to use these questions and the picture to help you think about or discuss issues arising from this week's Bible passage.



- What activities in your life require preparation and counting the cost?
- What are the costs of following Jesus? And what are the rewards?
- What loving actions is God prompting you to do, this week?

Sudoku

	6	4			9			
5			7					
			2	8		3		
9				4				6
4				3	5	8		2
	7				6		3	
2					8			9
6		7						8

		6		7			9	
2		1			6			
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9		5						
						4	6	
4	6			2	7	5		
	9	2		1				
							5	
		7				8		1

3	6	4	5	1	9	2	8	7
5	2	8	7	6	3	4	9	1
7	9	1	2	8	4	3	6	5
9	3	2	8	4	7	1	5	6
4	1	6	9	3	5	8	7	2
8	7	5	1	2	6	9	3	4
2	5	3	4	7	8	6	1	9
6	4	7	3	9	1	5	2	8
1	8	9	6	5	2	7	4	3

5	4	6	2	7	1	3	9	8
2	3	1	9	8	6	7	4	5
8	7	9	3	4	5	1	2	6
9	1	5	6	3	4	2	8	7
7	2	8	1	5	9	4	6	3
4	6	3	8	2	7	5	1	9
3	9	2	5	1	8	6	7	4
1	8	4	7	6	3	9	5	2
6	5	7	4	9	2	8	3	1

Sudoku (Trickier)

	1					8		6
	4	6						5
	5				6		9	3
			5	8		6		
			7	9				
		5	4				7	
2			6			5		
3		7			2			

		7			8	9		
8		1	3	7				
		4	6					
5				3	9	8		
3			1		6		9	
				5			6	7
							1	
1			8					

3	9	7	8	5	2	4	6	1
2	8	4	6	1	7	5	3	9
1	6	5	4	3	9	2	7	8
6	2	8	7	9	1	3	5	4
5	3	1	2	6	4	9	8	7
4	7	9	5	8	3	6	1	2
8	5	2	1	4	6	7	9	3
9	4	6	3	7	8	1	2	5
7	1	3	9	2	5	8	4	6

1	4	6	8	2	7	3	5	9
7	2	5	9	6	3	4	1	8
9	8	3	4	5	1	2	6	7
3	7	8	1	4	9	5	2	6
5	1	2	7	3	9	8	4	6
4	6	9	5	8	2	1	7	3
2	3	4	6	9	5	7	8	1
8	9	1	3	7	4	6	2	5
6	5	7	2	1	8	9	3	4

Wordsearch based on Jeremiah 18: 1-11

X	A	N	R	U	Y	E	N	C	J	B	F	O	Z	C
V	O	K	S	M	H	F	P	L	A	N	A	S	O	L
R	O	A	G	I	M	Z	S	M	E	G	N	A	H	C
V	S	P	O	I	L	E	D	E	S	U	O	H	X	Z
V	U	S	O	X	W	E	C	K	I	N	G	D	O	M
X	R	X	D	W	K	C	U	L	P	N	S	F	L	V
D	E	C	L	A	R	E	J	G	N	I	K	R	O	W
H	W	P	S	S	N	K	I	R	P	L	A	N	T	Y
W	O	W	Q	G	A	N	A	V	E	S	S	E	L	U
D	R	M	J	E	O	E	T	N	E	M	O	M	B	B
E	K	G	R	I	H	Y	O	R	T	S	E	D	U	V
M	E	B	T	A	S	S	D	R	O	W	C	N	I	K
E	D	A	L	E	E	H	W	T	C	L	A	Y	L	F
E	N	P	U	I	H	A	N	D	R	C	Y	L	D	J
S	G	P	P	X	M	H	P	O	T	T	E	R	R	M

POTTER
WORDS
WORKING
VESSEL

SPOILED
REWORKED
GOOD
DECLARE

KINGDOM
BREAK
CHANGE
PLANT

HEAR
HOUSE
WHEEL
CLAY

HAND
SEEMED
MOMENT
NATION

PLUCK
DESTROY
BUILD
PLAN

