



Newington, Stadhampton with Chiselhampton,
Warborough and Shillingford

PEWS NEWS

St Laurence Church, Warborough

SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST

11TH AFTER TRINITY

THE COLLECTS

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

God of glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 45.1–15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.' ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother

Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Romans 11.1–2a, 29–32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Matthew 15.[10–20] 21–28

[¹⁰Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.' ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' ¹³He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.' ¹⁵But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' ¹⁶Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.'] ²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' ²⁴He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' ²⁶He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁷She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Post Communion

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Loving God, you know what is in our hearts before we put it into words. Fill our hearts with your love, your joy and your peace, so that these things may overflow into the words we speak and the way we treat others.

We pray for your Church and for all who seek to follow you. Help us to speak words of welcome rather than judgement, encouragement rather than criticism, and kindness rather than anger. May our churches be places where everyone knows they are valued and loved.

We pray for those who feel like outsiders, for those who have been excluded, rejected or made to feel that they do not belong. Give us the courage to notice those who are on the edges and the generosity to make room for them. May we recognise your image in every person we meet.

We pray for ourselves and for those who we love. Help us to think before we speak, to be slow to anger and quick to forgive. Fill our hearts with gratitude, compassion, kindness and joy, so that something of our love may spill out into the lives of those around us.

Merciful God, hear the prayers we offer for ourselves and for others, and make our hearts more like yours. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Views from the Pews: Jen's Lens

Anyone who has ever been on a diet will be comforted by the words of the Gospel this week: "It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person"... I mean, I read that as "eat what you like" although I'm not sure that my metabolism will allow me to get away with it anymore!

Jesus wasn't discussing waistlines though. He was talking about something much more important: what comes out of our mouths, and what that reveals about what is going on in our hearts.

With the statement "It is what comes out of the mouth that defiles", Jesus makes the point that holiness isn't simply about what we eat, or what rules we follow, or how we appear on the outside. It is about what is happening within us. Because sooner or later, what is in our hearts tends to find its way out.

“The truth will out,” as Shakespeare puts it in *The Merchant of Venice*, echoing this sense that the secrets of our hearts influence our behaviour and our attitude towards others.

I was thinking about this while we were on holiday in Scotland. We spent the day on the beach and, while I was basking in what Scotland adorably describes as hot weather, all I could hear were the happy sounds of children playing in the water. It was all excitement and wonder and laughter, and it felt like pure joy – how wonderful was that?

Of course, none of us is permanently full of joy. Sometimes what comes out of our mouths is frustration, irritation or anger. Sometimes it’s gossip or criticism. Sometimes, if I’m honest, I can say something perfectly reasonable in itself, but the way that I say it is anything but loving.

And Jesus reminds us that these things matter.

Because our words have power. They can encourage or they can diminish. They can make someone feel seen or make them feel invisible. They can bring laughter and joy, or leave a wound that lasts far longer than we intended.

To quote Albus Dumbledore, *“Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic, capable of both inflicting injury, and remedying it.”*

But Jesus isn’t just telling us to watch our mouths, but our hearts. If what comes out reflects what’s within, then perhaps the answer isn’t simply to become better at keeping quiet when we’re angry, or to try harder not to say the wrong thing. We need to question what we are filling our hearts with.

Because if our hearts are filled with fear and resentment, fear and resentment will eventually find their way out. But if our hearts are filled with gratitude, compassion, kindness and love, then perhaps those things will find their way out too.

Roald Dahl puts it in a beautiful way: *“If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely.”*

There is a lovely contrast between the two halves of this Gospel. Jesus begins by talking about what comes out of our mouths, and then we meet the Canaanite woman. She is an outsider, someone who was regarded as beyond the boundaries of the community. Yet what comes out of her mouth is extraordinary: persistence, humility and faith.

“Yes, Lord,” she says, “yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” And Jesus recognises what is in her heart: “Woman, great is your faith!”

I wonder what someone would discover about my heart if they listened to everything that came out of my mouth today. And I wonder what I might learn about myself. Before words

form in my mouth, perhaps I need to consider what is in my heart – and therefore what I need to fill my heart with.

I certainly hope that I can take a part of that beach in Scotland, and the joy that filled the air, with me as I go through this week. And I pray that, whatever life throws at us, there might be enough of God's love and joy filling our hearts that some of it inevitably spills out of our mouths.

I wish you all a wonderful week ahead.

Jen

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST

11TH AFTER TRINITY

STADHAMPTON – 9:30AM FAMILY EUCHARIST

WARBOROUGH – 11:00AM PARISH EUCHARIST

SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST

12TH AFTER TRINITY

WARBOROUGH – 8:00AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

STADHAMPTON – 9:30AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

NEWINGTON – 4:30PM CLUSTER EVENSONG

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST

13TH AFTER TRINITY

WARBOROUGH – 10:30AM TEAM SERVICE

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

14TH AFTER TRINITY

STADHAMPTON – 9:30AM FAMILY SERVICE

WARBOROUGH – 11:00AM PARISH EUCHARIST

WARBOROUGH NEWS:

Thank you to Rev Myles for taking today's service and to Ralph Anderson for playing the organ.

We pray for those who live in Henfield View, and The Green North.

Please feel welcome to join us over in St Laurence Hall after the service, for coffee and cake.

We pray for Harriet Goddard and Joseph Napper as they prepare for their wedding here on 29th August.