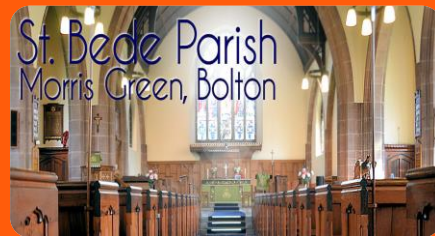




Parish Church, Bolton-le-Moors



5th July
2020

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Editorial

The theological category of blessing is one of the most important in the Old Testament--a theme that is often underappreciated in protestant theology. The great theologian Claus Westermann contrasted two general aspects of God's merciful action towards humanity: God's *saving* activity and God's *blessing* activity. For good reason, protestant Old Testament theology has strongly emphasized God's saving activity--forgiving sin, rescuing from oppression, saving from death and the like. But the Old Testament consistently speaks of another sphere of God's mercy: the blessing activity of God--fruitful harvests, fertility, health, prosperity, and the like. Psalm 67 majors in an area in which the church has often minored--the longing request for *God's blessing*.

Like God's saving activity, God's blessing activity is available by grace alone. This is true in two senses. First, even though some blessing is made available through the law (and thus it may appear that blessing is conditional and comes as a result of works righteousness), the law itself is sheer gift--not something that was earned by Israel, but an unexpected, breath-taking, welcome gift of grace.

Second, God's blessing is by grace alone because God blesses whom God chooses, when God chooses, for the reasons God chooses. God's blessings are gracious, surprising, unexpected gifts. This is clear throughout the biblical narrative. One need think only of Sarah. God announces to Abraham in Genesis 17 that, "I will bless her and will surely give her a son by you" (verse 16). Abraham then laughs at God and counter-offers, "O that Ishmael might live in your sight" (verse 18). God does answer Abraham's prayer and blesses Ishmael, too. But God goes Abraham one better and saves the most surprising blessing for Sarah. A free gift of grace. Or, one might think of Mary. The unsuspected maiden whom all generations now called, "Blessed."

Tony

Today's Reading

Psalm 67

Today's Collect

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our saviour Jesus Christ.



Once a man was asked, "what did you gain by regularly praying to God?" The man replied, "Nothing...but let me tell you what I lost: anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity, and fear of death." Sometimes the answer to our prayers is not gaining but losing; which ultimately is the gain.

MindfulChristianityToday.com

Please pray...

Jean
Michael
Doreen
Minti
Ronnie
Carys
John
John
David
Bernard
Lynn
Andrew
Will
Barbara
Wendy
Lynn
Norman
Fiona
Gill

Kirsty
Sean
Marlene
Jennifer
Colin
Catherine
Natalie
Sylvia
Esme Rose
Mike
Paul
Jon
Matt
Megan
Mary
Ann
Stephen
Steph
Yvonne

Please remember not everyone on this list is sick, they may just need your prayers!

We come before you, O Lord, with
nothing except the gift of our
hearts in prayer. Hear us and bring
us your peace



St Bede Charity Partners 2020;



News...

A CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS

I am delighted to announce that following Government guidelines, St Bede's Church will open for worship from Sunday 12th July at 10am. Obviously, we will need to follow new guidelines and do things slightly differently in church from now on. We have done a thorough risk assessment and done all we can to ensure we as a church are COVID-19 secure. The changes include:

- People entering church will be asked to use sanitising hand gel as they enter the building
- You will need to keep 2 metres distance from others at all times - this means only half the pews will be in use and we will ask you to sit at the end of the pew so to maintain 2 metres from other people.
- There will be no singing of hymns as singing is not permitted
- No service sheets/hymn books will be given out as all the liturgy will be on our new screen at the front of church
- The Government advises that people who are at risk (i.e. those with underlying health conditions, those shielding and those over 70 years of age) do not come to church at the moment. However ultimately it is your choice.
- We will not be signing attendance forms for church school admissions so there is no need to bring your sheets to be signed each week. We are waiting for schools to re-evaluate their admissions criteria in the light of churches being closed over recent months.
- Communion is permitted, but we will only be distributing the bread.
- The Wardens will be noting down attendees at each church service, so that if there is a positive case of COVID-19 at church, NHS Test and Trace can be notified.
- If you have attended a service at St Bede's and you have a positive test of COVID-19, then you should inform Vinny or the Wardens immediately.

Our first service on Sunday 12th July is a Family Communion Service; so we look forward to welcoming you all back to St Bedes. However, we hope to record our services and publish them online on our YouTube channel each Sunday so that those who can't come to church can still worship with us.

I look forward to seeing you next week

Vinny

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Even though the Church is currently closed we still have many costs that need to be found in order to keep our building fit for purpose and ready to open once the current restrictions are lifted or lowered.

These include insurance, heating and lighting, cleaning and surprisingly many other items not forgetting Parish Share (which helps pay for our Vicar and other clergy related costs). In order to be able to pay these expenses we need regular income. Some parishioners are generously giving us help via Direct Debit/Standing Order but unfortunately as we are currently closed those who gave via the regular envelope scheme or collection plate have not been able to do so. We do hope you have been able to set aside some monies/envelopes so that these can be utilised by us when the Church re-opens.

I have never put pen to paper before in this regard but these are exceptional times as we all now know. The Lord has provided and will continue to provide to get us through to the other side of this pandemic and for that I am eternally grateful. Thank You for listening and Keep safe

David Almond

Treasurer

St Bedes Church and PCC

If you wish to contact me to discuss methods of giving then my contact details are as follows

Email – david.almond3@ntlworld.com

Phone – 01942 793122

Our Church depends very heavily on fundraising as well as regular giving to keep our Church afloat.

We ask that you do continue to give by setting up a Standing Order from your bank. Please contact our Treasurer, David Almond for further details – David.almond3@ntlworld.com

Church Rocks & Shiny Pebbles

MAY ALL PEOPLE PRAISE YOU

'May the people praise you, Oh God; may all the people praise you.'

Psalm 67:3

God wants all the people in the world to know about his love and glory. He wants us to tell others about Jesus, but He knows that we cannot do this on our own. We need to pray that God will bless us and our world. We need to pray that others will learn about Him. God wants the whole world to know about Him and praise Him.



COLOURING PAGE

You may wish to print off this page and colour in the picture to show all the people of the world praising God. You could then take a photograph of your completed picture and email it to Vinny (vinny@st-bede.org.uk). You may see your picture on display in the on-line morning service (St Bedes and St Andrews Church You Tube channel).





A very happy 40th Birthday to Rev Vinny from all at St Bede!



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DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL

Our Community Corner is part of our witness by supporting Morris Green

Disclaimer: St Bede Parish takes no responsibility for the services offered by 3rd parties

If you know of any local businesses within Morris Green that may want to use this newsletter to advertise in return for a donation to Church funds, please ask them to contact Tony at

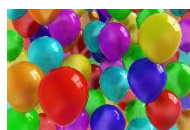
newsletter@st-bede.org.uk

As you have received, so may you be pleased to give.

St Bede's is a living Church and its people are The Church. The Church's only financial support is its own Church family.

Please try to support the social and fundraising events as they are vital not only to the financial wellbeing of our Church, but are great opportunities to get to know one another better.

Your Church thanks you for your gifts of money, time and talents.



JUBILEE AND COMMUNITY ROOMS

The Community Room and the Jubilee room are available to hire for parties, meetings etc. Please see one of the Church Wardens, Gill or Jean

**St Bede
Parish,
Morris
Green**

Normanby Street,
Bolton, BL3 3QR



CONTACTS

Priest-in-Charge – Rev Vinny Whitworth – 01204 658921 vinny@st-bede.org.uk

Associate Priest – Rev Malcolm Bristow – 01204 659816

Church Wardens – Jean Philips – 01204 451676 Gill Blackburn – 01204 660396

PCC Secretary – Elaine Almond – 07757099862

Treasurers – David & Elaine Almond

Organist – David Platt

Newsletter Editors – Tony Whitehead 07967223380 & Sharron Hardman – 01204 700848

Social Media Team – Kirsty Critchley 07763 495009 & Tony Whitehead 07967223380

Administrator – Elaine Almond – 07757099862

St Bede Primary Academy Head of School – Sarah Rostron – 01204 61899

Chair of Governors – Tony Whitehead Vice Chair – David Almond



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churchoffice@st-bede.org.uk www.st-bede.org.uk