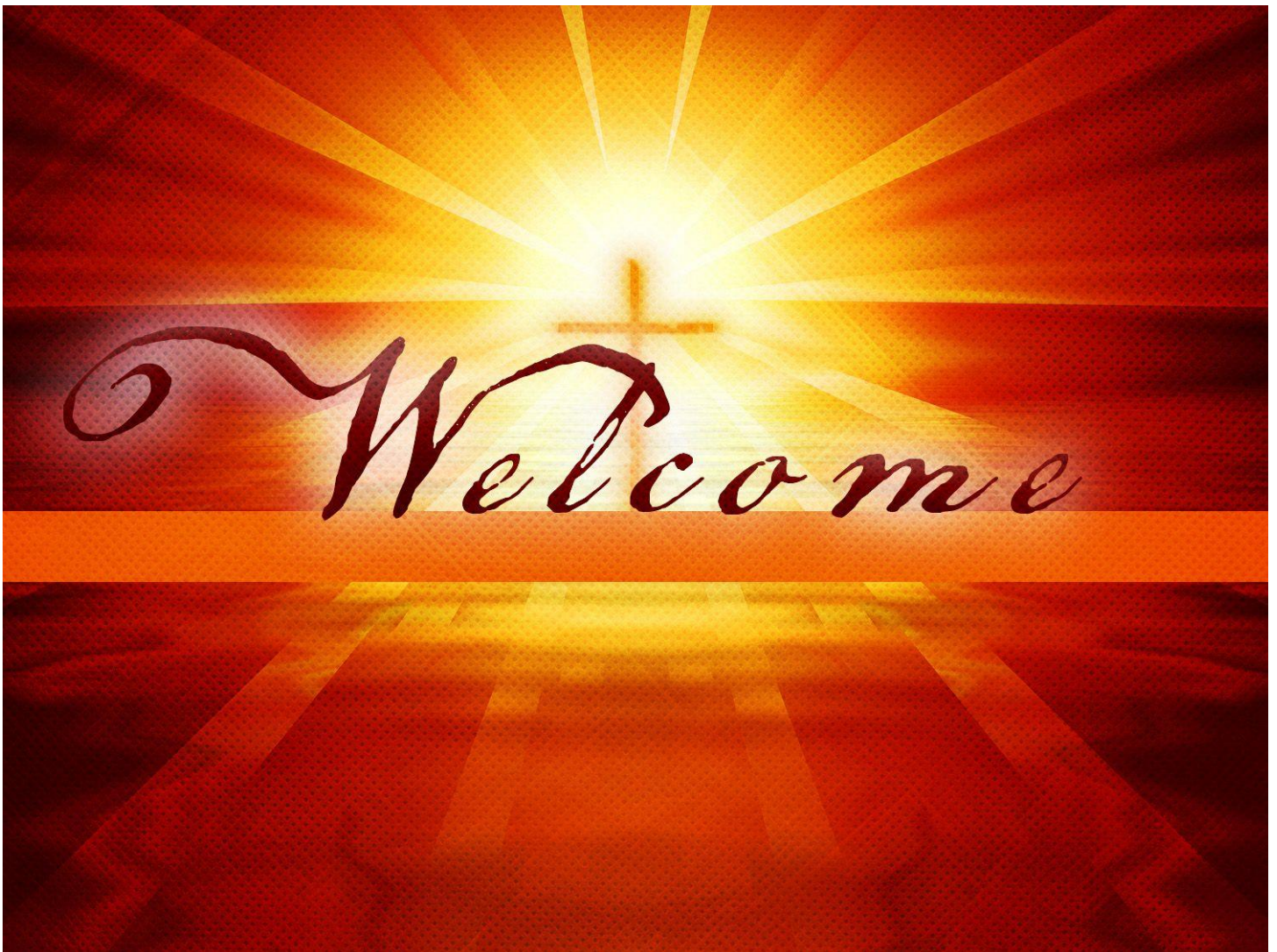




MALMESBURY
ABBAY



6 June 2021

Come, Holy Spirit

Catherine Price, Associate Minister

Recently, I was delighted to host, in my garden, the first in-person meeting of the Community of St Aldhelm for over a year. It was wonderful to be together, and we spent some time reflecting on Jesus' teaching on the gift of the Holy Spirit as we read about it in John 15: 15-21, using materials prepared for a Rudford Retreat at Home by the Revd Catherine Williams. In this blog, I share these materials with the wider church family in case you would like to use them. *Begin by reading John 15:15-21, and then take time to reflect on some of the questions below:*

1. The setting for the passage is the in-between time after Ascension and before Pentecost. We are living in an 'in-between time' at present as we begin to emerge slowly from lockdown. How does this 'in-between time' feel for you? What are you waiting for at this time and what will it be like when the waiting is over? What do you long to do in the future? Tell God about that now.
2. Jesus suggests that the disciples will know the Spirit of truth because the Spirit will remain with them and live in them. In what ways do you know the Spirit of truth in your life? What does it feel like when you know something to be false or lacking in truth? Think of a situation in our world today where truth is lacking. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring truth to that situation.
3. Jesus tells his disciples that he will be with them, even when they can no longer see him. Imagine Jesus sitting beside you. What do you want to say to him? Say it now. How does Jesus respond to you? What do you do next?
4. Jesus promised his followers the gift of the Holy Spirit. Close your eyes and imagine what it would have been like to have been there at Pentecost on that first outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). What difference does the gift of the Spirit make in your life? Are there any gifts that you might want to ask for in prayer? Do that now.

I pray that God will bless you as you reflect on these Scripture and pray 'Come, Holy Spirit'.

Every blessing

Catherine

Corinthians: 4-13:5:1

¹³ It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.'^[a] Since we have that same spirit of^[b] faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Awaiting the new body

5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

Mark 3: 20-34

²⁰ Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹ When his family^[a] heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, 'He is out of his mind.' ²² And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.'

²³ So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: 'How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶ And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. ²⁷ In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.' ³⁰ He said this because they were saying, 'He has an impure spirit.' ³¹ Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. ³² A crowd was sitting round him, and they told him, 'Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.' ³³ 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' he asked. ³⁴ Then he looked at those seated in a circle round him and said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers!'

Discipleship Questions

1. Read Mark 3:22-27. In these verses we see Jesus facing criticism from religious people. They didn't deny that he had performed exorcisms, but they questioned that what he was doing came from God. Jesus shows them why, logically, they should believe that God's power is at work. Do we sometimes find it hard to discern whether something – miraculous or otherwise – is from God? Can you think of any examples from your personal experience? What test did you apply, and what conclusion do you come to?
2. Read verses 28-30. Down the ages, many people have become worried about what Jesus meant when he talked about an unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit. How might we deduce from the context of this passage what Jesus was referring to?
3. Read verse 21-22 and 31-35. Jesus' friends seem to have been worried that he was over-reaching himself, and wanted to rein him in, and some scholars think that his family might have felt the same way. Have you been in situations where you have wanted to do more for God, or perhaps live out your faith in a different way, but felt inhibited because of family pressure? If this is a current issue, you might like to ask someone to pray with you about it.
4. Jesus' words emphasise that when we become Christians we gain a whole new family on the company of other believers. When have you felt this most strongly? How can we reinforce this sense of being 'the family of God' in our church life'?

A message from the Villages:

The online version of Signpost, June edition, in full colour is available on <https://issuu.com/drjvale/docs/junesignpost>

MALMESBURY ABBEY AND THE VILLAGE CHURCHES

**For services and further updates
Please check the website:**

www.malmesburyabbey.com

In-person services:

6 June (Trinity 1) - Abbey 10.30am HC ** (live-streamed)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/6-june-trinity-1-1030am-hc-tickets155688282845>

Brokenborough 9.30am BCP MP

This is the link for the Abbey's live streamed services for those who want to join us online:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCH0fusH73aezsMivUc1KQ/live>

Service pattern for June

These are the services we currently have planned for May and June, based on our current best understanding of Government and Diocesan guidelines.

You will need to book in for some in person services via Eventbrite by clicking on the links provided. These services are marked with a **double red asterisk ****

Some services are planned to be outdoors. These do not need to be prebooked. They are marked with a **double green cross ++**

Midweek Communion restarted as of 10.30am on **Wednesday 19 May** and it does not need to be pre-booked.

6 June (Trinity 1) - Abbey 10.30am HC ****** (live-streamed)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/6-june-trinity-1-1030am-hc-tickets155688282845>

Brokenborough 9.30am BCP MP

13 June (Trinity 2) - Abbey 9.00am BCP HC; 4pm Outdoor Service **++**;

Rodbourne 10.30am CW HC

20 June (Trinity 3) - Abbey 10.30am HC ****** (live-streamed)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/20-june-trinity-3-abbey-1030am-hc-tickets155689093269>

Brokenborough 9.30am Patronal Festival BCP HC

27 June (Trinity 4) - Abbey 9.00am BCP HC; 10.30am HC ****** (live-streamed)

4pm Café Church ******; Corston 10.30am CW MP

DAILY READINGS

Monday

Psalm 30

Job 13

Romans 7: 1 - 6

Tuesday

Psalm 36

Job 14

Romans 7: 7 - end

Wednesday

Psalm 34

Job 15

Romans 8:1-11

Thursday

Psalm 37

Job 16: 1 – 17:2

Romans 8:12-17

Friday

Psalm 112

Acts 11:19-end

John 15:12-17

Saturday

(No live online morning prayer)

Psalm 42

Job 18

Rom 8:31-end

These will be used at Morning Prayer, live online at 9am on Facebook at Malmesbury Abbey Online and afterwards at malmesburyabbey.com

Dates for the Diary:

The following events are at the Abbey

Time for Chat every Thursday 10.30am

Little Stars baby and toddler group restarting **on Monday 21 June (10am)**

Café Church Celebrations on Sunday 27 June and Sunday 18 July (4pm)



Christian Aid Week - 10-16 May 2021

Current figures are:

Market Cross Collection	£568.09
Plants	£1,148.98
Other donations	£870.00
Walk	£1,941.00

TOTAL £4,528.07

Given the current situation this is a very impressive total - and money is still coming in, so this is not the final total!

If you wish to donate, either drop a donation through my letter box (85 Gloucester Road), or go online and donate to one of the team members - <https://www.justgiving.com/team/Malmesbury-OR195825>

Many thanks

Dick Gray

Chairman, Malmesbury Christian Aid Committee

P.S. here's a picture of the walkers all together in the Market





Last year, food banks in the @TrussellTrust network gave out a record 2.5 million emergency food parcels to people in crisis. At **Malmesbury & District Foodbank**, covering villages and towns across the North Wiltshire area, we gave out **1268** food parcels with **535 of these going to children**.

If you or someone you know is hungry or is struggling to put food on the table then please get in touch. We know that anyone can reach crisis point and we're here to help when that happens.

Phone us: [01666 826982](tel:01666826982)

Email us: info@malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Website: <https://malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

Give to the foodbank: <https://malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>

Follow us on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MADFoodbank>

Twitter: @MaD_Foodbank

Abbey Online Appeal - Target Reached!

A huge thank you to all who have given to our Online Mission Appeal over the last few months.

We have reached our target so that all our new equipment has been fully funded by your generous donations.

We now have live-streaming cameras and IT equipment to help us reach out online to those hungry for the Good News of Jesus in their lives.

That's been possible because of you – Thank you!

16 June 6:30pm The surprising life of Daniel of Daniel's Well: one of the most influential people in 8th century England, by Tony McAleavy



This is an online event,

Tickets £5 from the Museum website

athelstanmuseum.org.uk

All proceeds from ticket sales will go to support Athelstan Museum

Pamela Ofield Funeral 18 January 2021 Orders of Service Available

Pamela's daughter has given me some copies of the order of service for her funeral. These are for people at the Abbey who knew her mother. All the plant drawings included in the order of service are drawn by Pam. Many parishioners will remember her bringing flowers every week to the Pop in which was held in Eilmer house.

Thanks

Pam Osborne

Please get in touch with me if you would like a copy



The future of Children's, Families & Youth work

The PCC is looking ahead to September when Andrew and Jude will be moving on to their new ministry and a focused team has been busy preparing a Job Specification for the post. We are pleased to say that the role is now being advertised widely (see below); please do share this information and pray for a good selection of candidates to come forward. We will keep you updated on progress!

We are seeking to recruit a new **full-time Children's & Families (Pioneer) Worker** to shape and resource our volunteer team to reach out wider to children and families in the local community. The post-holder will also lead a team to facilitate growth and discipleship for families attending regularly and have a key role in re-shaping our weekly contemporary worship service.

The person appointed will be visionary, creative, versatile and a great teamleader and worker.

The post-holder will work in co-ordination with the North Wiltshire Mission Area Youth Enabler to provide a joined-up ministry to children, youth and families across Malmesbury and the towns and villages of North Wiltshire.

For full details please visit: [Jobs – Malmesbury Abbey](#)

If you would like to have an informal chat (in person or over Zoom), please get in touch: claire.camm@malmesburyabbey.com

For more information about the NWMA post visit www.nwma.org.uk



Thanks so much once again to everyone who has supported us over the last few years and especially throughout the pandemic. We are so grateful to be up and running again.

We have loads of new Christian literature available including new titles from the likes of Tome Wright, Jeff Lucas, Francine Rivers, Guvna B (one to buy for young people), Stormie Omartian, Pete Greig, Patrick Regan, Amy Orr-Ewing, Tim Hughes, Gary Chapman (*The 5 Love Languages*) and more! We're also building up our card selection again so please come and stock up.

We need your support now more than ever, due to where Covid has left us, and of course we're always happy to see if we can order items in for you.

If you have any ideas about the type of gifts or other products you would like us to stock, now is the time to give us your ideas and feedback as we start building up our orders again. Come and chat to any of us.

With every blessing from
The Malmesbury Abbey Books Team



Youth Mission Enabler, North Wiltshire Mission Area

Closing Date: 16 June 2021

We are excited to be recruiting for this new full time, fixed-term post which has potential to be an innovative model for working across a rural mission area and develop lessons for the National Church. The post provides an opportunity to think strategically and creatively about youth and children's work in a rural area, to provide young people with opportunities to worship and to develop their leadership skills, and to manage a team of up to four youth work trainees from South West Youth Ministries (SWYM).

This post will suit an experienced youth worker who can think strategically and plan and deliver effectively. The successful candidate will need to be able to manage and develop their own team, and build and manage fruitful relationships with a complex network of stakeholders. They will be committed to co-creating youth ministry with young people themselves.

Appointment for three years initially, with the possibility of extension, subject to funding. Salary range £25-28K pa, depending on qualifications and experience.

There is a genuine occupational requirement for the post-holder to be a committed Christian.

For more details, [download our application pack here](#). For an informal chat about the vacancy, contact Becky Fisher by phone or WhatsApp 07974 030212 or email becky.fisher2021@gmail.com

As we can't take Malmesbury children to the CPAS Falcon Camp at Perrott Hill again this summer, a group of us are planning to join forces with HEALS to provide a full Summer programme to run during the school holidays based in Malmesbury. HEALS usually offers 2 or 3 activities a week for the children in Malmesbury who would particularly benefit. We are hoping that the Abbey family will provide 2 or 3 Activity half days inside the Abbey including outside sports/games in the cloister gardens with a spiritual element built in.

If you would like to help with just one or two events or more, please be in touch with one of the team: Simon Shaw, Claire Camm, Helen or Dick Venn. You will need to hold a DBS to help which takes a little time to process so please be in touch soon.

CONTACT US

ABBEY OFFICE

The parish office is now open
10.30am-1.30pm, Monday-Friday.

Parish Office Email:

office@malmesburyabbey.com

Parish Office telephone: 01666
826666

Emails and any voicemails left on
the office answer phone will be
replied to as quickly as possible.

**The Abbey is now open for Morning
Prayer at 9am Monday-Saturday and
is open for visitors 9.30am-3.30pm
Monday-Saturday and for services on
Sundays.**

**The Café is open Monday-Saturday
9.30am-3.30pm.**

**The Bookshop is also open 9.30am-
3.30pm Monday-Saturday**

MALMESBURY ABBEY

At Malmesbury Abbey we love to welcome new people, so don't be shy, please make yourself known to us today.

Contact the Parish Office (details above) so we can keep you in touch with what is happening, and put you in touch with a Home Group, if that's your thing.

We also love to show care for our community, so please help us by letting us know if you, or anyone you know, needs our help.

PASTORAL PHONE: 07425 527312

Prayer request email: prayers@malmesburyabbey.com

12th CENTURY BEAUTY 21st CENTURY CHURCH