



The Chase Benefice

Sunday 23rd July 2017 Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Theme for this week

In this week's Gospel reading, Jesus tells a second parable about sowing seeds, this time about two sowers - one who sows good seed to grow wheat, and the enemy who sows weeds among the wheat. At the end of the passage, Jesus offers an allegorical interpretation to his disciples in private. Like the parable of the sower, the parable of the wheat and weeds offers a perspective on opposition to Jesus, and also speaks more generally to the persistence of evil in the world.

But Jesus makes clear that we simply cannot be certain who is "in" or who is "out." In fact, God's judgment about these matters will take many by surprise. Thank God it is not up to us! We can leave the weeding to the angels, and get on with the mission Jesus has given us - proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God drawing near.

Notices continue over page

In our prayers this week

The letter after a name in the prayers refers to the parish from which the person comes. If there is no letter, they come from outside the Benefice.

Those who are unwell including: Emma Tear, Joan Pratley [A]; David Bates [E]; Sarah Fay [S]; Alan Partridge; Diane; Ebba Cameron; Gill Sheldon; Sally Owens [E]; Michelle [E]; Doreen Gaynor; Emma Bradford; Heather and all those recovering from surgery, undergoing tests or awaiting treatment

Those who need our continuing prayer, including: Lynne & Pat Zielinski; Ken Lumb; Barbara Wilson [C]; Charlotte Hogsden [C] and Mary Taylor [S]

We give thanks for times, places and people that have ministered God's peace and well-being to us over the last week.

We remember with love those who have died especially for those who have died at their own hands

Those whose anniversary occurs at this time: Peggy Cheers, John Nixon [E], Owen Shirley [A], Tim Bolton [C] and Mike Willis [C]

Also in our prayers:

- For all who work on the land: those who sow, tend and harvest the food we eat, and for those struggling to make a living from the land.
- For those working for aid organisations who stand in solidarity with the poor, and who work with them to make the world a fairer place.
- For those who spread the good news of the gospel, where the hungry are fed, the homeless are given shelter, and the enslaved go free.
- For refugees and asylum seekers and all those who are uprooted from their homes, that they may be treated with dignity and kindness.
- For the Church, that it may provide a welcome for all.
- For Harry, Erin & Elora being baptised in Chadlington this week.
- For ourselves, that the word of God, written in our scriptures, may take root in our hearts and grow strong there.

Details of all future services and events in the Benefice can be found on our online calendar: www.thechasebenefice.org.uk

Sunday 23rd July 0800 Holy Communion [BCP] at Ascott

President & Preacher Mark Abrey

1000 Holy Communion [CW] at Enstone

President Marian Needham &

Preacher Mark Abrey

1200 Baptism at Chadlington

Minister: Mark Abrey

Thursday 27th July 1230 Jesus Prayer at Chadlington

Sunday 30th July 1000 Benefice Service at Spelsbury

*President & Preacher Marian
Needham*

Readings:-

Sunday 23rd July

Wisdom 12. 13, 16-19; Romans 8. 12-25; Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43

Sunday 30th July

I Kings 3. 5-12, Romans 8. 26-end, Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52

Summer Bulletin

This is the last weekly bulletin until the end of August. Any notices to be included in our Summer Bulletin should be emailed to Beth before Wednesday 26 July please - news@thechasebenefice.org.uk

A way into Prayer

'Taste and see that the Lord is good' – one of the senses we rarely use in worship is taste. When you eat, be mindful of the people responsible for getting the food to your table: the growers, producers, financiers, transporters, marketers and advertisers, shop assistants...and more.

A Personal Prayer

Lord, may your Spirit lead me into the field to harvest the crops you have sown, planted by those who believe in you, and which grow amid the weeds: a harvest of love and forgiveness, a harvest of hope over despair, a harvest of faithfulness and fruitfulness. Amen.

Reflection

On the day of the harvest the straw is set aside, the chaff is blown away by the wind, and the weeds are consigned to the flames.

But the wheat, like sacks of gold, is gathered into the barn.

Lord, on the day of death, the harvest of my life will be poured out before you,

wheat chaff and weed together.

Let your wise hand sift through it; then keep what is worth keeping, and with the breath of your kindness, blow the rest away.

Live your Faith

For children

Challenge the children to do some weeding at home, or in a public space this week. Ensure they ask permission first, and are supervised if necessary.

For young people

Find out what groups at your school are helping students to get more involved in world issues, e.g. prayer, charity, human rights. Join one!

For adults

Be on the lookout for moments when you find yourself judging someone. Pause, and offer the person or situation in prayer, as you consider if you should leave the judging to God.

The Rector: Revd Mark Abrey, The Vicarage, Church Rd, Chadlington, Oxon OX7 3LY

Tel: 01608 676572 email: rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk [Mark's day off is on Friday]

Associate Priest: Revd. Marian Needham, The Vicarage, Little Tew Road, Enstone. OX7 4NL

Tel: 01608 678424 email: marian@thechasebenefice.org.uk [Marian normally works Sun + 2 days; Mon is her day off]