



The Benefice of St Mary's Bocking & Panfield Church

Sunday 9th October 2022
The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Staying in Contact

The Very Revd Rod Reid - Incumbent (*usual rest day Monday*)

Email: bockingchurch@gmail.com Call: (01376) 324887 www.stmarys-bocking.com
or on Facebook, search for 'St Mary's Church, Bocking', or 'Panfield Church'

Forthcoming Services

St Mary's, Bocking

Sunday 9th October

8am Said Mass
10am Sung Mass

Wednesday 12th October

9.30am Said Mass

Sunday 16th October

8am Said Mass
10am Sung Mass

Panfield Church

Sunday 9th October

11am All Age Worship

Tuesday 11th October

5pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 16th October

6pm BCP Evensong

Hymns

420

369

There's a wideness in God's mercy

477

Gospel Acclamation

*Praise be the Lord who gives us strength,
who shows his love to all his chosen.*

NOTICES

London Marathon - Last Sunday Fr Rod completed the London Marathon! It was touch and go, but he made it, and all in aid of raising funds for Helen Rollason. There is a Sponsorship Form in both churches, and if you would prefer to give online then go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rod-reid

Bible Study group - We are looking to re-start Bible Study sessions and would love to hear from you if you would be interested in joining. To help us plan these, please speak to Fr Rod about days/times that work for you, and also where it might be best to meet. Thank you.

Gift Aid envelopes - Both churches use them, they are Blue at Panfield and White at St Mary's but they do the same thing. If you are a UK taxpayer, then by placing your donation/offering in one of these and importantly then filling in the details, we can claim an extra 25% from HM Treasury at no additional cost.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal - It would be really helpful if all knitting, stationery, toiletries (no creams/liquids) was in by the end of October, thank you.

Going Green! - Over the next few months you will be hearing more about our drive to become an Eco-Church. In partnership with A Rocha, an environmental charity, we are hoping to work towards the various awards beginning with bronze. There will be opportunities for all to get involved as we progress, including our younger ones as Eco-Church will be theme for the next Junior Church, Sun October 16th.

Christmas Tree Festival - will be Dec 10th/11th with performances, raffle, tombola, pound presents, refreshments and lots of in-house stalls on SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER, Father Christmas may even

put an appearance in for that. There are lots of ways for your to support this key fundraising event, details to follow on the items needed for the hampers plus many more ways to help.

Bishop of Chelmsford - Bishop Guli will be preaching at St Mary's Bocking on Sunday 6th November. It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible, so that we can fully welcome her to the Benefice. Please do mark it in your diaries and join us for what will be a special occasion.

Years Mind - Please see the list at the back of the church. While a few amendments have been made not all of the additional names appear. Since Covid, any updates have been added to the weekly Notice Sheet but not necessarily the Years Mind list. Please do then take the time to make sure any loved ones who you wish to be remembered are on the list and if they are not please add a short note to the side with their name and date of death. Thank you.

Prayers - We keep in our prayers Jean Goodwin, Sue, Jackie, Roger Hurford, Frances, Margaret, Peter, Jenifer, Jo, Bernard, and Margaret Everitt. We also remember our care homes Millard House, Fern Lodge, Aspen Grange, Larchwood, The New Deanery & St Mary's Court. In our Years Mind for this week, we pray for the families of Donald Careless, Mike Griffiths, Joyce Holden, Barbara Lawrence, Nellie Broyd, June Beynon, Margaret Taggart, Joan Percival, Cyril Finch, and Gerry Howe.

The Collect for the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
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.

Epistle Reading - 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

Gospel Reading - Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

Address

Let me tell you about Stan, Stan is a large dog who walks into a butcher shop carrying a purse in his mouth. He puts the purse down and sits in front of the display case. "What is it, boy?" the butcher jokingly asks. "Want to buy some meat?" "Woof!" barks the dog.

"Hmm," says the butcher. "What kind? Liver, bacon, steak ..." "Woof!" interrupts the dog. "And how much steak? Half a pound, one pound ..." "Woof!" The amazed butcher wraps up the meat and finds the money in the dog's purse.

As the dog leaves he decides to follow. The dog enters a nearby tower block, climbs to the third floor and begins scratching at a door. With that, the door swings open and an angry man starts shouting at the dog. "Stop!" yells the butcher. "He's the most intelligent animal I've ever seen!" "Intelligent?" says the man. "This is the third time this week he's forgotten his key." He wasn't thankful.

How about the story of Pam, who worked in central London. Every morning, she came across a middle-aged woman in a shabby coat begging for spare change at the front of an old church. She greeted everyone with a smile and a pleasant "Good morning." Pam almost always gave her something. After nearly a year of this routine, however, the woman in the shabby coat disappeared. Pam wondered what had happened to her.

Then, one beautiful day, she was in front of the church again, still wearing the same, shabby coat. As Pam reached into her purse for the usual donation, the woman stopped her. "Thank you for helping me all those days," she said. "You won't see me again because I've managed to get a job." With that, she reached into a bag and handed Pam a wrapped package. She had been standing at her old spot waiting, not for a handout, but for the people she recognised so that she could give each of them a small gift. She was thankful.

However, you look at it, today's reading is all about thankfulness, and the apparent lack of it. As we heard, Jesus healed 10 lepers. He heals them and then they go off, not a word of thanks. It takes the one leper who realises just what a blessing he has been given and he returns to say thank you.

Mercifully, Leprosy is nowadays much more easily dealt with but then it defined you. You would have been shunned, marginalised and with little hope of cure. So, the gift he gives them all is quite an incredible one, lives are utterly changed and only one has the decency to turn back and say thank.

Do you say thank you? When you have seen that God has been at work, grace and blessings in your life or those around you, do you say thank you?

I know as I was running around London last Sunday, I definitely said thank you many, many times. To my family for coming and supporting me, to those who cheered us on, gave us jelly babies, and I know I said thank you to God. There were times I really wasn't sure I would get round. By Mile 18, I had no energy, everything was hurting, blistered and bleeding. So yes, I definitely said thank you.

In day-to-day life, I imagine many of us would say we try to say thank you, maybe we should do it more, but we try to.

So yes, when God has behaved in a way we expect, has answered a prayer we asked, intervened in the way we thought and we have spotted it, yes let's always say thank you. Jesus himself says your faith has made you well and praises him for giving thanks. What a good person.

But were the 9 others really ungrateful? We don't know of course, but we also don't know the full story. Like Stan the dog, however good he is, his owner certainly isn't. Many in the shop would have shared stories about how amazing he is, but if the butcher hadn't followed him home, that is where the story would have ended but instead we get an insight into just how tough life was for Stan and still he chose to

be such a good boy.

Those 9 healed men may well have gone off, but what if he changed their lives just as Pam and others did for the lady begging in London. Instead of running off after being healed what if the 9 others have not forgotten but instead are now in the surrounding towns and villages telling people of the amazing man that is Jesus, how we must hear his word. That he can do amazing things, and we too must be thankful. Passing that thanks on, paying it forward.

Instead of turning back, they kept going, full of the holy spirit, full of thankfulness and then sharing with others just how transformative this man really is.

If we are honest it can be tempting to make judgement calls, to look at a situation from the outside and decide what we think should or shouldn't have been done. This story should have read that they all came back to say thank you, but maybe there is more than one way of saying it, and more than one way of showing it.

As we reflect on the need for thankfulness. Do you thank just by words, or by actions? Does that thanks need to be acknowledged or can we just get on with it? Knowing God sees, and God knows. Don't we also give thanks just for the things we expected or wanted? How much more is there to be thankful for, countless blessings each and every day.

That reflection begins and ends with ourselves. We can't say thank you on someone's behalf and certainly not to God, so we are challenged today to think of our own thankfulness. Not just to say it, but mean it. For it to become a way of life, not just an occasion. It can all happen from just one moment. Where can we also pay that thankfulness forward? Let me close with these words from a hymn that may just be the reminder on thankfulness we need...

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.