

**Letter from the stewards...**

**21st October 2021**

Sorry it has taken so long to get a letter out but I was busy preparing for the Church Council meeting which was very time consuming, not having had a face-to-face meeting for a year and only having had an e-mail meeting earlier in the year!

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Richard Cole "Without Wallpaper"..**

Jill read psalm 100 as a Call to Worship.

Hymns were: CMP 1000: King of Kings, Majesty; CMP 50: Be still for the presence and CMP 673; There is a redeemer. The reading was Psalm 27, broken into two parts, 1-6 then 7-14.

Richard illustrated his sermon on patience with a bowl of fruit, be it wooden. A lemon was an L for Love. A Jaffa Orange represented Joy. Two pears were Peace and Patience. Dark grapes meant goodness and green grapes gentleness. A fig represented faithfulness and a kiwi kindness. Strawberries - and cream - were self-control. He suggested we find rest in the Lord and keep calm, wait patiently with Hope, and wait for God in Trust. Jesus said to witness the world, watch and wait, and while waiting pray, but wait actively, not passively. Another very good message.

In the afternoon, we had a joint Harvest Service with St Barnabas with tea first. Members of both churches took part which was good with very lively new harvest songs.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October, Kathy Elvy "Harvest Service"..**

Kathy led our Harvest Service on 10th. Thank you all for your contributions to the Meon Valley Food Bank. They were very grateful and we have received a thank you. The church looked lovely.

Hymns were CMP 106: Come ye thankful people come; STF 92: Think of a world; CMP 200: Great is thy faithfulness; CMP 153: For the fruits of his creation; CMP 732: We plough the fields and scatter; CMP 229: Here I am and CMP 857: I, the Lord of sea and sky.

Readings were:- Ecclesiastes 3: 1 - 8; Genesis 1: 1 - 5, 24 - 31 and 2: 1 - 4; Mark 4: 26 - 29; Matthew 13: 1 - 9, 18 - 30 and Philippians 4: 4 - 9.

There were two poems, Diary of a Church Mouse and Autumn Days with a short message from Kathy.

We may start collecting for the Food Bank in the near future but will keep you posted.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October, David Boswell "Glimpses of God's Grace"..**

Hymns were:- CMP 20: All people that on earth do dwell, CMP 18: All over the world, CMP 751: All your mercies and CMP 473: Hope is built on nothing less.

Readings were Genesis 3: 1 - 24 read by Martin and Luke 15: 11 - 31 read by Dennis.

The sermon was titled 'Glimpses of God's Grace'. David referred to the story of Adam and Eve being clothed by God and said that he is faithful, just and forgiving if we are honest and confess.

The story of the Prodigal Son illustrates that both sons needed forgiveness and reassurance of love, as do we all. God is waiting for us to come back and be loved and we must share God's love.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> will be led by Rev Bob Kitchin, a very well-liked previous minister.

November 14<sup>th</sup> will be Remembrance Sunday. There will be a service at SMC led by Mark Chester but options are open to attend the village Remembrance Service at St B's at 10am and the Cenotaph at 11am.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday. If you need prayer, a call or visit, please contact the stewards. (stewards@s-m-c.org.uk)

Our lovely new minister Phil is happy to call or visit if necessary and is very approachable.

Blessings

Carol, Jill and Kathy