

## TEAM NEWS

### TRAINING DAYS at St Mary's BRIDPORT

Training days for readers, intercessors, chalice assistants, servers and those who prepare our churches for worship will be held on:

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** from 10-12 noon and

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October** from 3-5pm

We will cover all these areas of our service so if you are already taking part in these ministries or interested to know more, please do come along. Email [di@bridport-team-ministry.org](mailto:di@bridport-team-ministry.org) to give us an idea of numbers.

### CONSULTATIONS

In early October across the Parish of Bridport we are holding a series of consultations in each of our six churches to share ideas from the 'away days' involving our ministry team and the PCC. These were run so we could think about what's most important for us as the body of Christ here, consider who we are, our priorities, and think together about the future. We really want as many people as possible to join in the conversation. This is a chance for us all to think about our values, how we come together and how we serve God and our community. **Come and contribute**, let's listen to each other and to God, as we look ahead together. We will be holding meetings at each of our churches.

*Monday 3 Oct at 3pm at St John's, West Bay*  
*Tuesday 4 Oct at 3pm at Holy Trinity, Bothenhampton*  
*Wednesday 5 Oct at 3pm at St Swithun's, Allington*  
*Wednesday 5 Oct at 7pm at St Mary's, Bridport*  
*Thursday 6 Oct at 11am at St Mary's, Walditch*  
*Thursday 6 Oct at 3pm at Holy Trinity, Bradpole*  
*Sunday 23 Oct at 4pm at St Swithun's Hall*

You are invited to any of these meetings. If you can't make the meeting in the church in which you regularly worship, come along to another. The final meeting will have a more parish-wide focus, and we hope some of you will come along to that last consultation, as well as another, having reflected on the questions and discussions we will already have had.

### SERVING

The Bridport & District Good Neighbour Scheme (Pathways to Care) needs someone to co-ordinate **pairing up transport requests** (to get to medical appointments) **with car drivers** (from our band of volunteers). Good Books handles initial enquiries before passing them on to you. Arrangements (phone calls) can be made from your own home. Full training and support given.

Please contact Jackie Edwards 07969 948246

25<sup>th</sup> September 2022

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity



Greetings from Bridport's worshipping community

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In these days of spiralling fear about the cost-of-living crisis, we look in our Bibles and find a gospel reading which challenges us about privilege, poverty and religion.

The story of the rich man and Lazarus centres on the reversal of fortunes that takes place after they both die. It links agony or comfort after death with how we treat the less fortunate around us, much like Matthew links eternal life and punishment with how we treat the hungry and thirsty, strangers, the naked, the sick, and those in prison.

There are echoes of this all through the gospels. When Jesus is conceived in Mary's womb, she exults that the hungry have been filled and the rich sent away empty.

Jesus tells the poor that God favours them, and that the kingdom of God belongs to them, but he warns the rich of what is to come since they have already received their consolation in this life.

Luke makes clear that the poor are a focus of Jesus' ministry. In his first public words, Jesus declares that he has been anointed by the Spirit of the Lord "to bring good news to the poor".

Jesus describes the kingdom of God as a wedding banquet where the invitation has been extended to "the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind".

We read these words, we know these commandments and parables and we live in a world where we see clearly the 'great chasm' between rich and poor.

How are we rich towards God? By our life of prayer, our faithfulness? And how do we see this faithfulness in our lives? Is it by looking outward, seeing the story of the rich man and Lazarus in our world, in our community and responding with generosity and compassion?

Canon Deb Smith



**COLLECT**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;

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.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

Those needing healing; families and friends of lost ones.

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**1 Timothy 6:6-19**

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

**Luke 16:19-31**

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

ADDITIONAL READINGS

**Jeremiah 32:1-3a,6-15**

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him. Zedekiah had said, 'Why do you prophesy and say: Thus says the Lord: I am going to give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it; Jeremiah said, The word of the Lord came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.' Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the Lord, and said to me, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord. And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

Please read also: **Psalm 91:1-6,14-16**