

St Edmund Warkton

News Sheet

31 May 2020 Pentecost

Collect for the Pentecost

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Prayer requests

Pray for the residents of Warkton parish.

Pray for the Churches of Kettering; for the ways that each person in their congregations keeps in contact with others and for the ways that services and group meetings can continue to take place.

Continue to pray for Rosalinde, John and their family.
Please contact Mark if you would like further information.

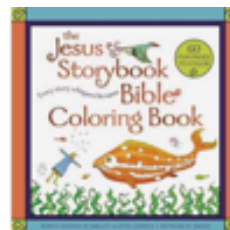
Continue to pray for Lesley and Lizzie Arnold and all involved after the death of Jim.

Remember the Cerón family and their church in Santiago, the capital of Chile.

If you wish to contact - a member of the fellowship please use the contact booklet or phone the Rector 0778 810 0757.

Services in this Benefice.

Sunday 31 May from 9.00am www.stbots.church
Morning Prayer at 8.00am - seven days a week.
Please see stbots.church for further details.



With over 60 pages of colouring fun that little ones will delight in experiencing. The Jesus Storybook Bible, as never before, unleashing their creativity as they absorb the words that whisper the Lord's name in this one-of-a-kind colouring book.

<https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/>



The evidence from the spade of archaeology demonstrates that the Bible is an accurate and authentic record of Israel's history and its surrounding nations.

<https://www.10ofthose.com/uk/>

A transcript of Robert Bashford's thought from last week.

Matthew 11: 28 to 30

Come to me all those who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Jesus issues two invitations.

The first invitation is in verse 28. 'Come to Him and He will give rest.' Notice that we are pictured as oxen which may not be the way that we want to view ourselves! Jesus says that we are like oxen, oxen who are crushed by a heavy load. The burdens that women and men carry along on their life's journey are many and varied but surely the particular load in view here must be the burden of guilt and sin. Jesus can promise rest to those who know the heavy weight of a guilty conscience because He is the burden bearer. The word 'rest' points us to salvation; do you remember the rest that God enjoyed on the 7th days of creation in Genesis? The writer of the book of Hebrews uses 'rest' to mean God's rest in heaven which Christian believers can look forward to.

Matthew 11 verse 28 always makes me think of that bit in John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress when Christian with his heavy load on his back, representing his burden of sin, comes to the Cross. John Bunyan writes, 'So I saw in my dream that just as Christian came up with the Cross his burden loosed from off his shoulders and fell from off his back and began to tumble and so continued to do till it came to the mouth of the sepulchre where it fell in and I saw it no more.' Then was Christian glad and livesome and said of a merry heart, 'He hath given me rest by His sorrow and life by His death.' Then Christian gave three leaps for joy! As an old chorus puts it, 'Burdens are lifted at Calvary!'

The second invitation is in verse 29. 'Take my yoke upon you and learn from me because I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls'. A perfect balance between these two invitations. First He takes our yokes (the burden that is crushing us) and then He places His yoke on us. These are not two alternative invitations - to accept the one yet at the same time is also to accept the other - to come to Jesus is to take His yoke upon us. Both invitations are coupled with a promise of rest; verse 28, 'and I will give you rest'; verse 29, 'and you will find rest for your souls.'

The picture continues to be that of oxen, but here it's a team or a pair of oxen pulling the plough or the carts. The farmer has put together an older and more experienced ox and a young inexperienced ox so that the younger can learn from the older. In this picture we are to be the younger inexperienced ox and our team-mate, the one from whom we are to learn, is none other than Jesus Himself. The yoke here means submission to authority because the truth is that Jesus is not only to be our Saviour who releases us from guilt but our Lord and Master who teaches and trains those who become His disciples.

Jesus' qualification to be the perfect giver of rest is that He is gentle and lowly in heart. Gentleness is not a sign of weakness; it carries the idea of strength under control. Jesus' authority was plain to friend and foe alike. The wonderful truth is that we are assured that, in Jesus, we find someone who is supremely understanding of all our weaknesses and needs and therefore He deals with us with complete insightful tenderness.

Finally in verse 30 where Jesus says, 'For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.' Here's the answer to the unspoken question, 'Is there

a catch?' Will this yoke that Jesus gives prove to be another heavy burden as bad as or even worse than the previous one? There is no catch - Jesus' yoke is easy and His burden is light. For a yoke to be easy it has to fit smoothly and comfortably. Jesus is the master carpenter and His yokes fit well!

The Christian life is not one of drudgery. The apostle John assures us that His commandments are not burdensome. The Book of Common Prayer includes a collect in the Morning Prayer service where it speaks of God, whose service is perfect freedom.

May each one of us know the rest that Jesus gives to all who come to Him today and every day.

More 'Wow' work from the young people.

This should be all.

