

## Bridges Group News

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Sunday: Trinity 2



### News from Napton

Greetings from St Lawrence Napton!

At our recent home group, we finished our most recent study, this time on Luke, and in the process we remembered (and prayed for) an old friend, Dick Harrison, who died last year. His wisdom on Greek translation and the knowledge of the bible was extensive, and a lot of fun for those of us with limited experience in the background of new testament texts.

In St Lawrence School, the exploration of Genesis and the creation story in Job, was the topic of work. This is in Year 4, ages 8-9! I was staggered that such young children were asked to study this but they did so with relish. The pictures were delightful and their own 'creations' (football world...who'd have thought!) showed a real sense of understanding how hard it might have been - when do you stop creating, when is it finished?

Getting together *to discuss* the bible and share your own reflections is so important to our spiritual health. Luke 24 v27 says '.. Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.' Jesus called his followers foolish when they hadn't connected his suffering, death and resurrection with the old testament predictions. Most of our villages have home bible study groups and you are warmly invited to join in. Contact numbers will be in your parish magazine or just leave a note in church with how we can get in touch.

- Lord, we thank you for those who teach 'The Word'. Gives us courage to seek it's meaning. Amen

**THIS SUNDAY** at St Lawrence, we are having a special service to officially name our meeting room, The Harrison Room, in recognition of contribution that Pam and Dick Harrison gave to this project. Pam will be coming along, and we understand Zena Greig will be with her, and it would be lovely if you are able to join us. The service will be led by our Lay team and supported by Gillian too. Please join us if you can and we start at 10.30am.

### Rectory reflection from Rev Andy

Our gospel reading for this Sunday has Jesus facing opposition from both his family and the religious authorities. They both accuse him of being a tool of Satan himself, who is providing him with the means to perform exorcisms and miracles. The phrase 'out of his mind' used by Jesus family in this context is often used to describe someone who is demon possessed. However Jesus is completely unlike any of the magicians and exorcists of his day, he does not use spells, incantations, or physical manipulations. He offers a simple word of powerful rebuke on his own authority. The scribes have not accused Jesus to his face, but behind his back, so Jesus 'calls them to him' in order to confront them; he wants the accusation to be addressed, and to rebuke them. In his parable Jesus explains that the only person who can bind a strong man is someone who is stronger, and Jesus is here claiming greater power than the power of Satan. This is no 'gentle Jesus, meek and mild'! Jesus is telling us that there is a real spiritual battle, and he engages in it with overwhelming power against the forces of darkness to bring peace and liberty to those he delivers. Marks gospel often portrays Jesus' ministry as engaged in a cosmic conflict, and offers a valuable contrast to the more usual images of gentle healer and teacher. The Markan Jesus teaches with unprecedented authority, he forgives people their sins with seemingly divine authority, he has the supernatural ability to tame nature, he has the power to heal and even overcome death, and he has complete authority over unclean spirits.

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, we cry out for an encounter with You. Perhaps some tangible experience in which we would sense Your nearness or witness a miracle. But sometimes that powerful encounter occurs within us. We pray that you would continue to transform our hearts and lives that we may be your witnesses in a challenging world, and continue your work of opposing evil and healing lives.

**Looking ahead...**

- Afternoon Teas at Lower Shuckburgh, every Saturday afternoon up to 17<sup>th</sup> August
- Dedication of the meeting room - "The Harrison Room" - to Dick Harrison at Napton 9<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June The Napton Bike Ride
- Childrens Leaders meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 7.30pm
- Stockton PCC 13<sup>th</sup> June at 4pm
- Napton PCC 17<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm
- Funeral for the late Hazel Grey in Stockton, 25<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June The Napton Bike Ride

<b>Services this Sunday: 9<sup>th</sup> June Trinity 2</b>	<b>Services next Sunday: 16<sup>th</sup> June Trinity 3</b>
10.30am CW Holy Communion at Priors Marston 10.30am Morning Worship at Napton 10.30am Holy Communion in the Methodist Tradition at Stockton 5.00pm Evensong at Priors Hardwick  Bible readings for the week are: Genesis 3:8-15, Mark 3:20-end	9.00am BCP Holy Communion at Priors Hardwick 10.30am Morning Worship at Priors Marston 10.30am CW Holy Communion at Napton  Bible readings for the week are: Ezekiel 17:22-end, Mark 4:26-34

(For more details of events and diary dates, see our website: [www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk](http://www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk) or the parish magazines)

**Next Week's Bridges Group News will be hosted by Priors Marston.**