

Sunday June 14th 2015



The United Benefice of Long Crendon, Chearsley & Nether
Winchendon

WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY

"What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Mark 4

Pray



Lord, quieten me, as I place in your hands those
for whom I want to pray. I know that you love
them with a love greater than I could ever imagine.
In the stillness I am here, with you, for them. Use me, Lord.

Collect for Second Sunday After Trinity

Lord you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is
counted dead before your. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ' sake, who is
alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for
ever. Amen.

Introduction

You could get quite depressed when you look around at the world and see such a pitiful
state of affairs and the inability of good people to bring about change and stop violence
and wrong. Yet we Christians should not be surprised at our inability to make everything
lovely. Jesus never promised to us that we would establish his rule on earth. Indeed it is
made quite plain that God's kingdom is not a kingdom established upon this earth, with
power and authority. Christians are not supposed to set up an earthly country. That does
not mean that God is not at work in this world. There is change and growth going on all the
time, but the growth of the kingdom is imperceptible. You have to look for it very carefully
and to those who lack the eyes of faith, it will be impossible to see. However those who
follow the master will never underestimate the power of God. They belong not to this world
but to a world to come, their country is not an earthly state but the kingdom which is
growing soul by soul and silently.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Readings for Today:

First Reading: Ezekiel 17: 22 - end

New Testament Reading 2 Corinthians 5: 6 – 10, 14 – 17

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Gospel Reading: Mark 4: 26 – 34

He also said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.’



He also said, ‘With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.’

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Post Communion Prayer

Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

If we are to be in Christ new creatures, we must show that we are so, by having new ways of living in the world. If we are to follow Christ, it must be in our common way of spending every day. William Law 1686 -1761

Services Today: June 14th

Trinity 2 - MAGNA CARTA

8.00 am	Holy Communion	Long Crendon	JW
10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	Long Crendon	JW
John Hooper will be speaking at our Eucharist today.			
10.00 am	Morning Celebration	Chearsley	Lay Led
10.00am	Matins	Nether Winchendon	RSB
6.00pm	Evensong	Chearsley	JW

Services Next Week: June 21st

Trinity 3

8.00am	Holy Communion	Long Crendon	JW
10.30am	Family Service	Long Crendon	RC
9.00am	Holy Communion	Chearsley	JW
10.00am	Family Service	Nether Winchendon	AB

Don't forget! THIS WEEK
Chearsley Fete 20th June starting at 1.00pm

Saturday July 4th

Concert in Chearsley. Meadowsong
at Long Meadow.

Following the success of this great Chearsley family event in 2013, Paul and Laura are returning this Summer to perform for us on the 4th of July - with a great "ye Hah flavour!

American burgers, hot-dogs, chocolate brownies (just like Mom used to make) and ice cream will all be on sale, and "the Six Bells Saloon Bar" will be well-stocked with Uncle Sam's finest beers.

Tickets available from Joy and Alicia. £15 per adult. Children Free.

All proceeds will go to the church bells fund.

There are several hundred books in St. Marys from my bookshelves. You are welcome to any - for free! JW

Meditation

Joyce Ann Zimmerman writes, 'Much of what we do successfully every day depends upon our cooperation with others. Making visible God's kingdom is first of all the work of God, but isn't it wonderful that God chooses to invite us to cooperate in this great work!'

Today's reading demonstrates that as ambiguous as God's Kingdom may seem, we have a responsibility to work alongside God to bring about it's coming on earth. Sometimes how we do this may seem insignificant, as small as a mustard seed, but God can take our lowly and seemingly small efforts, a brief word spoken, a small act of kindness, a hand of friendship, and from these, do what on our own would have been unimaginable. With God, all things are possible, even if from miniscule and small beginnings. The Kingdom of God is living and growing, and we are an integral part of its evolution and revelation.

A Summer thought

"The mind that comes to rest is tended / In ways that it cannot intend."
poet-farmer Wendell Berry. 'Sabbath',

'May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts you have received and pass on the love that has been give to you. May you be content knowing that you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.'

Go in peace