

your hands are full of blood.
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your doings
from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,
learn to do good;
seek justice,
rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out,
says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.
If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;
but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be devoured by the sword;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

The Faith of Abraham

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 12:32-40

‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Watchful Slaves

‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

Intercessions

World Church: Pray for the united Church of South India

Diocese: PRAY for General Synod representatives.

Benefice: Stedham Horticultural Society

Prayers for those in Long Term Care:

Martin Beale, Betty Horlock, Margaret Green, Pam Way, David Stobart, Allan Jones.

Prayers for the Sick:

Pam Browne, Stuart Law, Trudi Archer, Dawn Houston, , Lionel Cartwright, Fiona Johnson, Debbie Dean, Greg Carter, Virginia Pope and the Werner family especially Fred, Janet, Richard, Lucy and baby Beau.

Prayers for the departed

Frank McBrown, Stuart Duncan

In Memoriam

Angela Brocklebank, George Slade, Hamish Dunlop

Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free
from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your
love shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your
body be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever

Thought for the Week

In time of trouble you must sow seeds which will bring you joy at Harvest time.

Benefice Notices

Linch Notices

You will be aware that we are aiming to resurrect the Lunch Club as from October and we should be grateful if everyone could advertise this to their friends and neighbours. Further details are in the July/August magazine - e.g. first Friday in the month at a cost of £4 (£5 with wine) - and, nearer the date, we will just need to have an idea of numbers. Thanks.