

Sandale's Annual Secret Santa Appeal

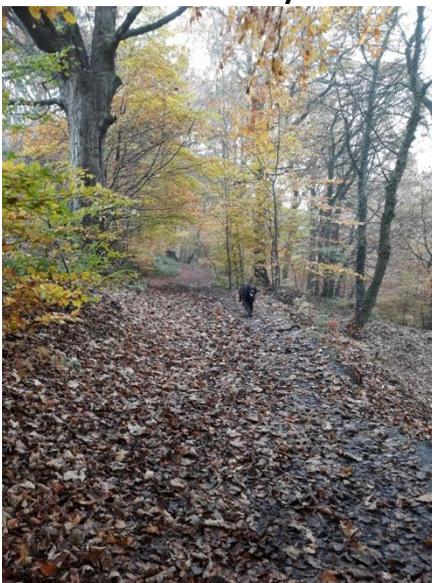
This year's Secret Santa appeal is probably more needed than ever before.

With many people on zero hours contracts or have been made unemployed, families are going to suffer at Christmas this year. We are asking for new toys (unwrapped) for girls and boys, all ages to distribute to our neighbours in order to bring some help and cheer. Also required are food bank items. Items can be dropped off at church when we return, or given to me at the vicarage. Thank you so much.

Picture of the Week

Please send pictures to me at andrew.greiff667@gmail.com

Shelf woods Andy Greiff



Prayer Chain If you, or someone you know needs urgent prayer call John Whitely (01274 676670)

Contacting us

The Team Vicar—Revd. Andy Greiff Tel. 01274 676 335

Church Website. www.shelfwithbuttershaw.net

Email: andrew.greiff667@gmail.com

Or follow us on Facebook

St Michaels & St Aidan's lockdown

NEWSLETTER

November 15th 2nd before advent

Collect Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ ““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Homily

When the Queen went to Chicago in 1959 the whole city started painting and cleaning. The hotels were warned to prepare but the very classy Drake’s hotel said, “We need to make no special preparations, our rooms are always ready for royalty.” That’s how we should be – ready for Jesus’ return. We shouldn’t have to make any special or unusual preparations but should live each day alert and ready for the Lord. We are coming up to Advent where we celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world as a baby the first time, but the Bible is also very clear that He will come back again a second time to renew the earth. Each of us will meet him anyway at the end of our lives.

A talent in those days was a huge sum of money but the meaning for us is that God gives us everything we have – our lives, our abilities, our position in life and He expects us to use it and do what we can to increase the Kingdom and be good stewards of Creation. Some have more, some less, but all are valuable, all precious. Then He rejoices with us and rewards us with a place in heaven, if we have used the talents He gave us in the first place.

The third servant does nothing for the Kingdom, not even give his talent to the bankers i.e. someone else who can do something with our money or

support or prayer. In addition, he slanders the Master, i.e. God, by saying he is a hard man. In our society’s case – that is like those who say God does not exist or has nothing to do with me. But Jesus is not a harsh master; He is full of grace, generosity, love and kindness. He gave his life for us. He forgives us and receives us into his kingdom, not as servants but as friends.

Are we confident we have done what God put us here for? Not just ‘Look busy, Jesus is coming’? But have we believed and trusted in God and in His promises? Have we loved Him and loved others in His name? Have we spoken about what gives us peace in difficult times? Have we given our resources in time or money to the church and those who help the disadvantaged? Even if we can’t leave home, it is important work to pray for our communities and those who don’t yet know God.

In this pandemic, or at any time when we feel we cannot do much but we wish we could, God sees the small things done quietly which don’t look much to us, but they have an effect more than we know and Jesus is pleased more than we know. We will then hear at the end ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! Come and share your master’s happiness!’
Amen. Jane

NEWS & NOTICES

We are currently in lockdown. Watch out for further notices regarding when we can return to church.

Zoom group Monday 26th October 12.30

PCC and APCM

PCC : Wednesday 18th November 7.30pm (Mainly accounts) via a vote on email

APCM: Wednesday 25th November 7.30pm via ZOOM Details will be in next week’s newsletter.