

NEWS & NOTICES

MASKS AND BAGS FOR SALE

Anne Blamires is making bags and masks for sale with a donation of £1 for every one sold. If you are interested please ring Anne on 01274 887785

Picture of the Week

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

Sandsend near Whitby – Elaine Gledhill



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

Contacting us

The Team Vicar—Rev. 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

Trinity 11 Sunday 23rd August

PLANS FOR A RETURN TO SUNDAY SERVICES UPDATE

After a PCC vote this week the church WILL REOPEN FOR SUNDAY SERVICES THIS COMING SUNDAY 23rd at the usual time of 10.15am. It will be a service of Holy Communion.

A full risk assessment has been taken and sanitizing and social distancing precautions put in place.

I must warn you that at least at first it will feel quite different from the services pre –covid 19.

- Please arrive no earlier than 9.55am.
- On entry your details will be taken and you will be asked to use the sanitizing gel.
- You will be asked to wear a face mask and sit in a certain place.
- We will have music but you are asked not to sing
- You may use the toilets but we ask that you wipe them down afterwards (wipes are provided)
- The process of receiving communion will be explained on the day
- At the end you will be asked to leave – of course you can chat to people outside where the usual social distancing rules apply.

PLEASE DO NOT COME IF YOU FEEL VULNERABLE, UNSURE OR IF YOU ARE ILL IN ANY WAY. THESE NEWSLETTER WILL CONTINUE, AS WILL THINGS ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE AND CHURCH WEB SITE. YOU ARE PART OF THE CHURCH FAMILY WHATEVER YOU DECIDE TO DO.

A Prayer for opening. Father God, we pray for your protection on thousands of churches around our nation that are slowly reopening. May your people rejoice at being able to worship together again, even in a restricted fashion. May the joy of your people shine forth in the darkness and offer hope to those we know. Please hold back the virus in this season of reopening. Protect and provide by the strength of your mighty hand upon us **Amen.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, **Glory to you O Lord Matthew 16**

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is the Gospel of the lord, **Praise to you O Christ**

Homily

Have you ever watched the TV programme ‘Who do you think you are?’ In it famous people track their family tree back in the hope to find out more about their family and themselves. If you look into the gospels of Matthew and Luke you’ll see that Jesus’ family line is recorded. It makes for interesting reading; adulterous kings, foreigners, a prostitute all add to the tapestry of his earthly line. But Jesus is asking about something else here in this Gospel. “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” he asks referring to himself. “John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, some other prophet” comes the answer. There seems to be a lot of confusion. There still is!

“Burt what about you? Who do YOU say I am?” Jesus could be asking you that very question right now. The Spirit put the answer into peter’s heart, “You are the Messiah” he boldly says, “the son of the living God”!

Recognising who Jesus is, is like a litmus test of faith. If he isn’t the Son of God, and we follow a prophet, wise man, sage, or whatever then we are wasting our time. Only Jesus, the messiah, God’s Son could pay the price of sin upon the cross and rise again. If this isn’t true ‘our preaching is useless and so is your faith’ Paul tells the Corinthians, ‘we are of all people most to be pitied.’

Jesus is the rock that the church is built upon, so strong is it that the gates of Hades will not overcome it. It goes that a virus will not overcome the church either.

We often bemoan the smallness of the church (here in the UK anyway), but it is built on Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. It cannot fail, as it hasn’t through 2000 years of history. It has outlived political movements that tried to end it, world wide diseases, wars, famines and it will continue to give glory to God no matter what.