

Bridges Group News

Date: 24th September 2023

Sunday: Trinity 16



News and Views – hosted this week by Priors Hardwick
Greetings from the people of Priors Hardwick

This week included the Festival of St Matthew, 21st September, whose gospel we're following this year.

We all know that Matthew was a tax-collector working for the Roman occupiers of Palestine and therefore one of a hugely ill-thought of group, of whom many extorted more than was right from members of the Jewish population. The chapter where we read about Matthew's calling (Chapter 9, 1-13) – when he just got up & followed Jesus, leaving his desk & money etc - begins by telling us it was Jesus's home town of Nazareth; and it was just as Jesus was leaving the town, one day, that he found Matthew at his work and called him away. So it looks as if Jesus had some knowledge of Matthew before this event and vice versa. And immediately after this Jesus went to Matthew's house for a meal – and many of Matthew's friends/ex-colleagues were there as well. How good was that???? People criticised Jesus for this, but as he said, those who are healthy don't need a doctor – just those who are ill. The church isn't a place for those who think they're good/perfect/faultless; but for those who know they are not!

Margaret Clarke

The Collect for St Matthew's Day

O Almighty God,

who called Matthew from the seat of custom to be an apostle and evangelist:

grant us to forsake all covetous desires and inordinate love of riches,

And to follow the same thy Son, Jesus Christ,

Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God now and for ever.

Looking ahead

- Autumn Equinox celebration: 23rd September, Napton Churchyard, 7pm – dark. Please dress appropriately for the weather for this outdoor celebration
- Harvest Songs & Supper: an evening of entertainment with Rachel Knight and Clare Langstone at Stockton Church, 29th September, 7pm for songs, 8pm for jacket potato supper
- Deanery Synod : 7th December, 7.30pm at the Tom Hauley Room in All Saints Harbury
- WI Lavender Service, Thursday 5th October 2pm at Stockton followed by tea and cakes

Services this Sunday: 24th September, Trinity 16	Services next Sunday: 1st October, Trinity 17
9.00am – BCP Communion at Lower Shuckburgh 10.30am – Harvest Festival at Stockton 10.30am – Harvest Festival at Wormleighton 3.00pm – '4 th Sunday' at Priors Marston 5.00pm – Evensong at Napton	9.00am Morning worship at Priors Hardwick 10.30am Morning Worship at Priors Marston 10.30am CW Communion at Napton 10.30am Morning Worship at Stockton
Bible readings for the week are : Jonah 3:10 - end of 4, Matthew 20:1-16	Bible readings for the week are: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25 – end, Matthew 21:23-32

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

Next Week's Bridges Group News will be hosted by Stockton.