

The Lighthouse



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Sunday, 13 June 2021
Issue 62

The Second Sunday after Trinity
Scripture Reading: Mark chapter 4 verses 26–34

‘Sowing the Seeds of Love.’

[Tears for Fears]

Dear Friends,

The Scripture reading for this week encourages us to dig faithfully for the growth of God’s kingdom. Small spiritual seeds cared for bring huge growth in our lives, worship and mission, in our community and beyond.

Have you heard of the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership? In the grounds of Wakehurst Place in Kent a purpose-built laboratory houses seeds stored at -20 degrees centigrade. The purpose of the project is to provide an ‘insurance policy’ against the extinction of plants in the wild by storing seeds for future use. In June 2015 there were 1,980,405,036 seeds kept under controlled conditions. The billionth seed – a type of African bamboo – was banked in 2007.

The mustard seed which Jesus talked about in Mark 4 v 31–32 is so small the naked eye can hardly see it. Jesus teaches in these verses that great things can come from the smallest beginnings. In a society that glories in power and greatness, we need as Christians to appreciate the importance and the potential power of smallness. We need a ‘mustard seed’ type faith. A little faith can move great mountains. A little love can solve large problems. A little word can give deep encouragement.

In the parable of the growing seed [Mark 4 v 26–29] notice the partnership between God and mankind. God provides the seed, mankind plants it and cares for it by sowing and reaping. Someone passed a garden full of wonderful flowers and vegetables. He called out to the gardener, “What a lovely garden.” “Thank you,” replied the gardener, “but you should have seen it when God had it alone!” The Kingdom of God grows when we clear the ground for the Word of God to bring his fruit in our lives.

Folks have kindly asked about my son Andrew and his virtual run from Land’s End to John O’ Groats. I referred to him in a Lighthouse letter a few weeks ago as he approached Birmingham on the M5. He is now in Glasgow. By totalling up his local short runs in Abingdon, a larger picture can be seen. In a similar way, small spiritual seeds can become powerful and mountain-like by faith and trust in Jesus.

Every blessing in Christ, Derek the Cleric.



‘God provides the seed, mankind plants it and cares for it ...’

Photo: Elliott Simpson / Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place / CC BY-SA 2.0

Hands – Face – Space – Fresh Air

Ideas for prayer

- + all those affected by coronavirus, here and around the world
- + our NHS workers, care workers and care home residents
- + key workers and those who provide essential services
- + our GPs, surgeries and staff tasked with caring for us and rolling out the vaccines
- + vaccination programmes, here and around the world
- + for co-operation among nations in dealing with the pandemic
- + our collective health and welfare
- + our nation and community life; our Government and its advisors
- + for wisdom and patience as we deal with changes to our ways of life
- + our teachers and school staff
- + our children and young people, their parents and caregivers
- + our young adults; our elderly neighbours and family members
- + our Armed Forces serving here and abroad
- + all who are worried about, or who have lost, jobs, livelihoods and businesses
- + all who are homeless
- + all who are suffering any injustice – racial, social, economic
- + anyone facing illness, hospitalisation or medical treatment
- + all who feel isolated and those who cannot be with their families
- + those who have died
- + all who make our worship services possible, all who attend online, in person or who visit the church via our Facebook pages
- + families bereaved at this time and those not able to use the church as they would wish to
- + for wisdom and safety easing restrictions
- + hope, encouragement and peace in all circumstances

Church Tower Abseil News!

Abseil is rebooked for Saturday, 2 October.

Services in June

13th June

- 9:30 The Gathering Contemporary Worship at Dersingham Village Centre
- 11:00 Traditional Worship – Holy Communion at St Nicholas Dersingham

20th June

- 9:30 The Gathering Contemporary Worship at Dersingham Village Centre
- 11:00 Traditional Worship – Holy Communion from the Prayer Book at St Mary the Virgin Anmer

27th June

- 9:30 The Gathering Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion at Dersingham Village Centre
- 11:00 Morning Prayer with Baptisms – Traditional Worship at St Nicholas Dersingham

Please do book in for all services by contacting Pauline, 544561 or secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk



Photo: © Dersingham Village Centre

Bible Readings for Sunday, 20th June

Third Sunday after Trinity

- First reading – 2 Corinthians 6:1–13
- Second reading – Mark 4:35–41

Edgar Cooper's Funeral

Edgar Cooper's funeral will be held at St Nicholas Church Dersingham on Monday, 14th June at 1 pm.

If you would like to attend, please contact Pauline to book a place: secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk or 544561. Places are limited by current restrictions.



We pray for all Christians in countries where they are persecuted for their faith.

QATAR

Population 2.8 million. 367,000 Christians (13.1%)

Life for Christians in Qatar can look very different depending on what type of Christian you are. There are two general categories: Christian foreigners, most of whom are migrant workers, and Christians who have converted from Islam. Foreign workers who are Christians are much freer to worship. For instance, the government has allowed large worship events. Even for these followers of Jesus, however, any evangelism to Muslims is strictly forbidden and can lead to deportation.

Qatari Christians from a Muslim background face much more significant persecution, particularly from their families. Both indigenous and migrant converts risk discrimination, harassment and police monitoring. Moreover, conversion from Islam to another faith is not officially recognised and is likely to lead to legal problems in personal status and property matters. Violence against Christians is very rare in Qatar, probably because the number of converts is low and they keep their faith secret.

Prayer points

- Pray that Christians will meet those willing to hear the Gospel.
- Pray for protection for Christian migrant workers facing abuse and discrimination by their employers.
- Pray that secret believers will be allowed by their family and community to worship freely.

If you'd like to know more about the situation for Christians in Qatar, do take a look at Open Doors' website and watch list: [Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide - Qatar - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)

A prayer for Qatar from Open Doors

Dear Lord, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Qatar. We especially lift up those who have found the truth of Christ and converted from Islam. Protect them and fill them with peace and hope. We also lift up Christians who are migrant workers – spare them from workplace abuse, racism and xenophobic attacks. Amen.

Thanks to Rev Adrian for providing these prayers for the persecuted church.

Again he said, "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 of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

– Jesus' parable in Mark 4: 30–32

We give thanks for:

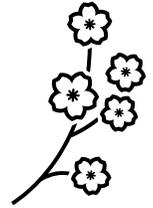
- + gardens, green spaces and good weather
- + God's grace, love and forgiveness
- + our families, friendships and church
- + livestreamed and in-person worship
- + our scientists, medics and care workers
- + our teachers, key workers and all people providing essential services
- + vaccines and progress in treating coronavirus
- + the arts, music and creativity
- + acts of kindness, courage and selflessness
- + the comfort and reassurance of Jesus and the Holy Spirit

Wordsearch – The Parable of the Growing Seed

Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle. All the words can be found in Mark chapter 4 verses 26 to 34.

I	T	E	T	L	G	R	S	T	U	O	R	P	S
K	A	T	D	S	U	R	I	S	R	G	S	B	T
R	R	S	N	S	E	E	V	L	S	I	T	B	I
S	U	G	M	I	H	V	S	S	E	T	P	B	R
G	U	K	U	C	S	D	R	S	S	S	T	E	B
R	N	N	S	K	W	R	P	A	S	R	T	S	R
A	D	O	T	L	A	S	H	P	H	D	U	S	A
I	E	U	A	E	S	C	A	T	T	E	R	S	N
N	R	S	R	L	H	C	N	I	G	H	T	R	C
E	S	T	D	T	D	L	E	N	R	E	K	S	H
U	T	A	S	O	I	L	O	S	E	E	D	E	E
W	A	L	E	S	W	O	R	G	R	N	A	W	S
S	N	K	A	E	O	A	K	R	G	S	U	N	R
S	D	O	P	D	I	K	G	U	A	T	E	T	R

- SICKLE
- HARVEST
- MUSTARD
- UNDERSTAND
- SCATTERS
- NIGHT
- BRANCHES
- SPROUTS
- GRAIN
- GROWS
- RIPE
- SEED
- STALK
- KERNEL
- SOIL



Stopwatch:
how quickly can you
solve these anagrams?

- RE EDGES
- TIGER DANCE
- IF HAT
- LOVES
- AMOUNTS IN

(All are words found in Derek's letter. Answers, below.)



28 Feb

11 June

Readers have kindly asked about the tomato seedlings from Lent. Here they are, just starting to flower. They all survived the frosts and are enjoying this week's sunshine. These are Lotos and Stupice vines. –lw

Anagrams: degrees, centigrade,
faith, solves, mountains
With help from: wordman.com/anagram-maker

