

Events This week

Sunday 26th Encounters – Mary the mother of Jesus
6.30 pm Charlton

Wednesday 29th Holy Communion Tangley 10 am

Thursday 30th Compline 9.15 pm Charlton

Friday 1st Holy Communion 1.30 pm Weyhill

Friday 1st Holy Communion 2.30 pm Charlton

Notices from around the Benefice....

Friday 24th Enham Lights Switch on 6 pm the Green

Saturday 25th Charlton Christmas Fayre 1 pm

Saturday 2nd Children's workshop at Smannell
cancelled. Sorry

If you would like a prayer said for you, family or
friends by the benefice prayer group please email
prayer@pastrowbenefice.org.uk

In your Prayers please pray for.....

Those affected by the flooding in northern England,
lets pray for the waters to recede as quickly as
they arrived.

For all our parishioners may God keep us safe and
free from ills as we move into winter.

Our children as tv adverts for Christmas take over
lets reminder them Jesus was born for us, so let's
celebrate his birthday.

Community Diary Dates

Christmas Tree Festival Saturday 2nd 10 4 pm &
Sunday 3rd 12 – 4 pm December. St Michaels West
Andover

Readings This Week

Ezek 34 11 – 16, 20 – 24 Ps 95 1 – 7
Eph 1 15 – end Matt 25 31 - end

Next Week

Isa 64 1 – 9 Ps 80 1 – 8, 18 – 20
1 Cor 1. 3 – 9 Mark 13 24 - end

Words of Encouragement

By Alan Evans

All have sinned and are not good enough to share God's divine greatness. They are made right with God by his grace. This is a free gift. They are made right with God by being made free from sin through Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:23-24)

What exactly does "grace" really mean? The dictionary says that it is *the free and unmerited favour of God, as shown in the salvation of sinners*. Put simply this means that we've all sinned, we've all fallen short of God's perfection, but instead of giving us the punishment we deserve, He blesses us.

The theory is fine, but from a human standpoint it's a pretty strange reaction. When someone hurts us, what's our response? Is it to turn around and bless them as opposed to, say, retaliating? Probably not. That's why we can find this concept of grace such a difficult one to understand. It's unnatural. Based on the natural law of cause and effect, there is no way that we can be worthy and meet up to God's demands of perfection.

I'm sure we've all seen advertisements for something that, allegedly, is FREE - and yet there's always a catch. But if someone who really loves you gives you something for free then there isn't a catch. That's how it is with God. Forgiveness is completely free to us, because He loves us. That's what grace is. The only catch is that someone else had to pay for it. Jesus.

So if or when we find ourselves keeping our distance from God, based on our natural understanding of cause and effect, sin and punishment, let's remember that God's response to our sin is completely unnatural. Grace.

Notes from Pastrow Admin

All quite at the moment, but I'm happy to receive detail of all forth coming events on all the usual channels.