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THE BULLETIN

Sunday 18 June, Trinity 1

Collect

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

(or)

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son.

Exodus 19:2-8a

They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.'

So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. The people all answered as one: 'Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.' Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

Romans 5:1-8: Results of Justification

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 9:35-10:8: The Harvest Is Great, the Labourers Few

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

The Twelve Apostles

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

The Mission of the Twelve

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

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| <p>The Readings for 18 June, Trinity 1, are Jeremiah 20:7-13; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39</p> |
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"I'm sorry, I can't hear" *by Rodney Nicholson*

I don't think I have a hearing problem. When I have my annual eye test, sometimes with an audio test thrown in, I seem

generally to be hearing well enough. But then, look what happened the other evening. Kathleen and I went to the annual CMS (Church Mission Society) evening, with a supper and a speaker. For the talk, we moved to the front. I am so glad we did. The speaker was excellent, giving a moving and easy-to-listen-to account of her life with CMS. But she had an accent and didn't speak up. There was no sound system. Had we been at the back of the room, we would have struggled to hear. All Saints, by contrast, is blessed with its excellent new sound system. The others in the audience were our age or older. Did they have better ears? Maybe some wore hearing aids. I suspect, however, that often people don't like to admit that they can't hear, and so put up with inaudibility. When people speak publicly, they really should check that everyone can hear them. We go to concerts where sometimes the conductor speaks in a conversational voice, without amplification, with the result that those at the back must strain to hear. Fortunately we're always at the front. Many a Women's World Day of Prayer service has been marred by speakers reading quietly and without a microphone. Two weeks ago I was preaching at the Mothers' Union deanery service at Escrick. The first reader did not go right up to the microphone. I gently asked her to do so, and at once the congregation could clearly hear her. Sometimes funeral addresses are less effective because the speaker, perhaps through nerves, speaks too quickly and cannot be heard. Services in the Minster can be wonderful acts of worship but, oh dear, the sermon can be a jumble of words. This last Maundy Thursday Kathleen came with me to the Eucharist. I was robed and with the clergy. Kathleen had a good seat not far away, also in the chancel, but she hardly heard a word of the sermon, which was very good.

St Paul says that faith comes from hearing the message (Romans 10.16), and this happens when evangelists and other speakers answer the call to go and tell the good news. But it's no good if they talk too quietly. Effective communication is vital.