



The Parish of Wellow

MORNING PRAISE INCLUDING THE BAPTISM OF
ARABELLA ROSE SMITH

11.15am - Sunday 14th February 2016 - 1st Sunday of Lent

‘When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”’

Luke 5:20

Welcome/Notices

Confession

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn Tune:Heinlein 77 77

1 Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

2 Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

3 Shall not we thy sorrows share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
glad with thee to suffer pain?

4 And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

5 So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

6 Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

First Reading – Matthew 9:1-8

1Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. 2Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” 3At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!” 4Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? 5Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? 6But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....” Then he said to the paralytic, “Get up, take your mat and go home.” 7And the man got up and went home. 8When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

An explanation of Baptism

God is the creator of all things, and by the birth of children he gives to parents a share in the work and joy of creation. But we who are born of earthly parents need to be born again. In the Gospel Jesus tells us that unless we have been born again, we cannot see the Kingdom of God.

On the day when the apostles first preached the Gospel of Christ's resurrection, Peter urged his hearers, Repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. the promise is to you and your children and to all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord calls to him.

Today *Arabella* is with us so that we can ask God that this promise and all the promises He has made will be true in *Arabella's* life. So we are going to ask God to do something that *Arabella* cannot do, nor can we do for *her* - that in due time *she* will be born again, receive God's Holy Spirit, and confess Jesus Christ as *her* Saviour and Lord.

A question for the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome *Arabella* and uphold *her* in *her* new life in Christ? **With the help of God, we will.**

Two questions for the parents and godparents

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *Arabella* with joy. Today we are trusting God for *her* growth in faith. Will you pray for *her*, draw *her* by your example into the community of faith and walk with *her* in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *Arabella* begins *his* journey in faith. You speak for *her* today. Will you care for *her*, and help *her* to take *her* place within the life and worship of Christ's Church? **With the help of God, we will.**

The parents and godparents publicly declare their faith

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God? **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil? **I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour? **I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour? **I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord? **I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life? **I come to Christ.**

The signing of the Cross

The minister makes the sign of the cross Arabella's forehead saying

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified. Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

Blessing and Dismissal

Let us return now to the world, for Christ is there, waiting to meet us and greet us. Let us go back with eyes open to see him, ears open to hear him, and a mind open to receive him, and a heart open to serve him, for his name's sake. Amen.

You are most welcome to stay for coffee after the end of service

The work at St Julian's is made possible, under God, solely by individuals' giving, for which we are most grateful. If you would like to contribute you can do so in the collection plate at the door of the church, through regular Gift Aid donations, enabling us to reclaim the tax or by credit or debit card online via our website: <http://www.stjsgroup.org/st-julians-wellow/st-julians-wellow-making-a-donation/>. Gift Aid mandates are available from our Covenants Secretary: Ruth Brown Tel: 01225 837751 Email: ruthebrown@sky.com

Hymn

1 Amazing grace!-how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace first taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 When we've been there ten thousand
years
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.

Reading – Luke 5:17-26

17One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. 18Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. 20When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." 21The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 22Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 24But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralysed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 25Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 26Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today." This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Talk – 'Your sins are forgiven' - Tom Benyon

Hymn

1 To God be the glory! great things He hath done;
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life gate that all may go in:
*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
let the earth hear His voice;
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father,
through Jesus the Son;
And give Him the glory;
great things He hath done!*

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. *Chorus*

3 Great things he hath taught us, great things He hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see. *Chorus*

Together we profess our common faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist? **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again? **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known to the world? **We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church. **This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

The Baptism

The minister baptises Arabella in water

Prayers of Intercession

In response to 'In the wilderness of life today' will you please say 'be present, O Lord.'

Lord Jesus Christ, we are reminded today, in this season of Lent, of the time you spent in the wilderness - facing choices, wrestling with temptation, experiencing a period of testing that would shape the course of your ministry; a time which reminds us of your humanity, which tells us you were one with us, tempted just as we are. In the wilderness of life today **be present, O Lord.**

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that you came through that time the stronger - more sure of the path you must take, and more confident of your ability to take it. So now we pray for those experiencing similar times of testing. In the wilderness of life today **be present, O Lord.**

We pray for those facing difficult and demanding choices, choices which entail pain and self-sacrifice, which mean letting go of cherished dreams, which involve facing awkward facts about themselves and others. In the wilderness of life today **be present, O Lord.**

We pray for those wrestling with temptation torn between conflicting desires, unsure of where they stand, uncertain about their ability to stand firm. In the wilderness of life today **be present, O Lord.**

We pray for those experiencing a period of testing in their lives problems they fear they cannot cope with, challenges they feel unable to rise to, questions they would rather not face. In the wilderness of life today **be present, O Lord.**

Lord Jesus Christ, give strength to all facing such times -a sureness of purpose and clearness of mind. Give the knowledge of your will -then courage to make right decisions and resolve to see them through. May each emerge the stronger for all they experience, and better equipped to face the future. In the wilderness of life today, **be present, O Lord.**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Giving of a Gospel

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119.105)

This book contains the Good News of God’s love. Read it, for it tells how you and your family can share in eternal life, through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, who says ‘I have come, that you may have life in all its fullness’.

The Welcome

Arabella God has received you by baptism into the covenant family of his Church. **We welcome you into the Lord’s Family. We will pray for you, we will hold you in our love, we will guide you in the truth of God’s word, that you may come to faith in Jesus Christ, and walk with us in the way of His light and truth. We welcome you.**

Hymn

1 And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood!
Died he for me, who caused his pain!
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

2 He left his Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite his grace.
Emptied himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me!

3 Long, my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Mine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

4 No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
Alive in him, my living head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.