

## Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Week: 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021, Tenth Sunday after Trinity

**Old Testament:** 1 Kings 19: 4-8

**Psalm:** Psalm 34: 1-8

**New Testament:** Ephesians 4:25 – 5: 2

**Gospel:** John 6: 35, 41-51

### Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Jo Neary

The gospel readings for the past few weeks have been based in John Chapter 6 and have focused on bread. Jesus begins by feeding the 5000, physically sharing bread with them and then moves on to use bread as a metaphor for his life. I am the bread of life he declares.

The discussion between Jesus and the crowd takes us back into the story of Exodus when the Israelites received manna, bread from heaven, to feed them. Jesus describes himself as the bread that comes down from heaven. It confuses the crowd because they are struggling to reconcile his identity. Is he Jesus from Nazareth, the carpenter's son? Or is he someone different, more important, more holy?

Jesus challenges the crowd and us, as we read today, to believe that he is sent from God the Father. The work of God is that we believe in the one he sent, Jesus, his son. And faith in him does more than feed us, it brings us eternal life. It is good to be reminded that the heart of the Christian message is to believe in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Too often we get side-tracked by the business and busyness of church. But at the heart of our church life and our day to day life is faith in God and that faith brings into an eternal relationship with God. Lord God, increase our faith. Resource us in our faith. Give us courage to question, to explore and to have confidence in your love for us. Amen

### Collect for the Tenth Sunday after Trinity.

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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.

**A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England.** This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



### Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday Worship; Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm