

## 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: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 35: 4-7a

**Psalm:** Psalm 146

**New Testament:** James 2: 1-10 (11-13) 14-17

**Gospel:** Mark 7: 24-37

### **Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. David Campbell**

The events as recorded in the Gospel reading for today are I think remarkable by any reckoning. Just consider them for a moment: demons are cast out from the child of a Gentile woman, a deaf man has his speech impediment removed and his hearing restored, the astonishment of the crowds increased and the so-called Markan Messianic Secret, in which the Jesus of this particular half of the Gospel asks that no one is told about his wonder-working is further developed. This keeping of a secret was obviously a nigh-on impossible task for those women and men who witnessed those particular events in the territories of Tyre and Galilee in those days and so the legendary fame of the son of the artisan from Nazareth spread more and more among those who has not as yet witnessed what he was doing and saying. But how may we understand those events for this day and age? How are they to be interpreted and applied for the places we come from for today? Clearly it is difficult. Most of us are not the witnesses to healing miracles such as described throughout the Gospel accounts and so it may be that we have to seek a different meaning behind those events. One of those meanings I have found most helpful over the years is to see the miracles as part of the on-going struggle between the forces of life and health and the forces of death and destruction. In his short public ministry Jesus of Nazareth identified himself fully with the forces of life and health and opposed openly all that hindered those forces, finally overcoming them. The task of the Christian person is then to stand for all that is right and good and true and life-giving and to both vocally and in practice join the struggle against the opposing forces wherever and in in whatever guise those forces reveal themselves. This seems to me to be an apocalyptic struggle – one that will continue to the end of time.

### **Collect for the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity.**

Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your  
presence: give us pure hearts and  
steadfast wills to worship you in spirit  
and in truth; 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.

### **Worship to enjoy at home**

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

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.



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers