

## 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: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**Old Testament: Isaiah 50: 4-9a**

**Psalms: Psalm 116: 1-8**

**New Testament: James 3: 1-12**

**Gospel: Mark 8: 27-38**

### **Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Chris Luckraft.**

#### *Start of Stewardship Campaign.*

The confession at Caesarea Philippi is a crucial turning point in the Gospel narrative. Until now the disciples have been following a chap because it was fascinating to see what he could do and to hear what he might say. But now they are challenged: "what exactly are you following?" And I use the word 'what' deliberately because it was not so much the personality of Jesus that was important but rather who he was, his unique place in history, his unique relationship with God. For Peter, and probably the other disciples, it was confronting the reality, the true nature of the person they were following. The penny had finally dropped - this was none other than the Son of God!

During the next few weeks, the diocese is undertaking a Stewardship campaign. Each week we are encouraged to think and act on a particular aspect, but this week is to be a week of prayer in preparation. And that is where Peter's confession comes in - suddenly he is confronted with the ultimate question - who is this you are following? It is precisely the same question we should ask of ourselves prayerfully as we start to consider our relationship with God and our response to him - or lack of response!

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

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

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

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