

## 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: 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022, Second Sunday before Lent**

**Old Testament: Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-25**

**Psalm: Psalm 65**

**New Testament: Revelation 4**

**Gospel: Luke 8: 22-25**

### **Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Revd. Fiona Beale**

In today's Gospel reading we hear of a windstorm that erupted and caused a huge amount of stress, anxiety, and fear among the disciples, because of the water they were taking onboard, which creates a very unstable boat, because of the extra weight which moves about. When the situation finally got too much for them to handle, then they approached Jesus for help.

This is like life, where at times as disciples, our lives are just happily bobbing along allowing the wind to take us. We occupy our time with work, family and ministry, the presence of the Lord is with us, and everything seems to be sailing along quite nicely... but out of the blue a storm erupts which might be a sudden loss of employment, or an unwelcome diagnosis, a road accident, or a family breakup – so many things can suddenly erupt, and our faith is tested. But the question is, where do we turn first, when these challenging circumstances happen upon us? Is it to Jesus in prayer or is it, to our own abilities?

The disciples believed, they are after all disciples of Christ. This storm tested their faith and revealed that their faith is inadequate, like our own faith at times which can cause all sorts of shortcomings. Let me encourage you when this happens, that you don't write yourself off by focusing upon shortcomings but look to Jesus first within the storms and pray.

### **collect for the Second Sunday before Lent**

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, 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 Morning Worship, Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm