**Genesis 41: 46-49**

Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went through all the land of Egypt. During the seven plenteous years the earth produced abundantly. He gathered up all the food of the seven years when there was plentyin the land of Egypt, and stored up food in the cities; he stored up in every city the food from the fields around it. So Joseph stored up grain in such abundance—like the sand of the sea—that he stopped measuring it; it was beyond measure.

**Luke 8: 4-15**

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.” As he said this, he called out, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that ‘looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.’

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

**NOTICES:**

At the end of the service please take your service booklet and this sheet home with you.

To comply with NHS Test & Trace we ask you to fill in the contact sheet and place this in a separate box at the back of church. Please do not fold the sheet. For the time enter the time of the service you are attending. If you are using the NHS app the QR code is displayed at the back of church and in the porch.

**Forthcoming services:**

24th January Epiphany 3

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary’s

11.00am Morning Prayer at St Peter’s

30th January Candlemas

10.30am Benefice service of Holy Communion at St Mary’s.

7th February The Second Sunday before Lent

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary’s

11.00am Morning Prayer at St Peter’s

6.30pm The evening service of Holy Communion is temporarily suspended

14th February The Sunday next before Lent

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary’s

11.00am Holy Communion at St Peter’s

17th February Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary’s

21st February The First Sunday in Lent

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary’s

11.00am Holy Communion at St Peter’s

28th February The Second Sunday in Lent

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary’s

11.00am Morning Prayer at St Peter’s

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