

Thought for the Day – Monday 14th June 2021

By Revd John Marshall

Some parables with seeds (Mark 4.26-34)

Jesus tells two parables about seeds, well really about the Kingdom of God. In the first the seed is scattered on the ground, and whatever the man does it grows. Eventually the crop can be harvested.

The growth is a mystery – which agronomists would probably be able to explain. So is the Kingdom a mystery.

The second is the parable of the mustard seed; which starts as a small seed and grows to be as big as a tree and the birds can perch on it.

Jesus likes parables, “With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything.”

Nick Baines says that Jesus does not define the Kingdom of God – but uses stories and images – and we can work with that.

Paula Gooder explores the question of which mustard seed – and has identified a plant which will grow to the right dimensions – but may be invasive. Which might suggest the Kingdom of God is difficult to get rid of, it stays.

The Parables Canterbury Press

Nick Baines prays

Lord God, you are the lover of small seeds, for out of them you can grow life-giving and nurturing plants.

May we never despise the small, but see in it potential for greatness, the power in the imperceptible to overthrow the judgements of the great. Amen.

Nick Baines Marking Time St Andrew Press

What seeds of the Kingdom are we at St James planting?