

St James News: Thought for the day – Tuesday 20th October 2020

A meditation by George Appleton – Rev John Marshall

I have used a number of prayers from George Appleton – he compiled the Oxford Book of Prayers.

I found a little book on my shelf, it is called “The word is the seed” Meditations starting from the Bible.

My copy has a sticker “A gift from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Lambeth Conference 1978.

It has a forward by Sir John Betjeman, he commends them,
“Willing to pray, the mind waits on the edge of a sliding stream. The prayers push the boat off out into the current. Once in the stream, the prayer is effortless compulsion carrying the mind along and sometimes swerving close to the presence of the Creator.”

I one called Guest Preacher based on [Luke 4.16-21](#).

O Christ my Lord,
Bibles and books were not so easily available
to you as to me,

And I marvel at your choice
of this text
to be the mainspring of your ministry:

To bring good news to the poor—
there are so many poor today,
To bind up the broken hearted –
O Lord, there is still so much grief,
To bring release to the prisoners –
still so many prisons of fear, despair and sin
as well as political and judicial,

To usher in the year of jubilee
when all debts shall be cancelled,
all pledges restored,
all slaves freed.

I marvel too, my Lord,
at the point where you stopped,
no mention of divine vengeance,

Only good news, Godspell.

O Lord, Let the Church
listen to the Nazareth sermon

be the Nazareth sermon,
Fulfilling before the world
the programme of gospel
which you announced?

What is our response to the Nazareth sermon?