

27th September 2020 – 16th Sunday after Trinity



Today's reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians is one I always find quite thought provoking and reminds me to relook at myself. Bearing in mind Paul wrote this letter to the people of Philippi whilst imprisoned in Rome, it was probably his writing on his apostolic mission for Jesus that helped to keep him going. We are reminded God did not come in great glory, but from his lowly birth in a stable Jesus came in humility, he came to obey God's words and to humble himself even to death on the cross.

We recently had a PCC meeting to look to move the church forward, to make opportunities to welcome more people back into the building and allow us once again to work with those in need and in the wider community, but alas, with more stringent restrictions necessary this week, this is not to be, now or possibly not for a good few months. It is frustrating, we have the building, a church crying out for more people, we have the resources, the equipment and the people with the skills – and people with a need, but it is far more important at this time for us to follow God's example and to show our humility in keeping the restrictions, helping to keep everyone safe and well and virus free, after all, Jesus paid the greatest cost of humility, hopefully we will not have to go to that extreme.

Next Sunday we will celebrate our Harvest Thanksgiving with our 10.45 Eucharist being live streamed, it will not be the same as usual but in the

new normal we are living in, it is just as important we come, in whatever way we are able, to give our thanks. We will once again be supporting the work of the Welcome Centre with our harvest goods – during the pandemic more and more people have found themselves in a situation where they have needed the support of the Welcome Centre and their stocks are greatly depleted. We will let you know very soon how you can make your contributions. It is also one year since we started to support the Homeless Street Kitchen on the first Sunday of the month, and with a little shuffling and reorganising, to be Covid safe and to keep the rules, we will be contributing again next Sunday.

We might not be able to do things the way we have always done it, nor do the things we want to do but, as Paul says to the Philippians, God is (still) at work in us, enabling us to will and to work for His good.

Collect for the day

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, now and for ever.
Amen

A reading from the book of Ezekiel

The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.^[a] ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?”

And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father^[a] went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Words from Fr Rodney

Last Friday (25th) was my 43rd anniversary of being ordained a priest in Durham Cathedral. I am reminded of this in the gospel reading for today where the first part of the reading is about Jesus being questioned by the chief priests and elders about where his authority comes from to do and say the things He does and says. Jesus throws the question back at them and refuses to enter into the argument. As Christians today we are under more questioning about our faith than ever before by the world around us. We should not be surprised by this, but it does mean that more than ever we need to know what our Christian faith teaches so that we can try to answer the questions of those who challenge or question us. All through my ministry I have encouraged people to come to know and understand their faith, and have particularly commended the Bible Reading Fellowship notes as a way of doing this. They provide a daily way of not only deepening our own faith, but of helping us to engage with others about it. In our gospel reading this morning Jesus deflects the mischief

making elders and plays them at their own game. Would you know enough about our Christian faith to do the same, and if not, what are you doing to learn more about it?

Dear Overgate Hospice,
Thank you all for your hard work. You help so many people. I appreciate all your hard work. Me, my mum, my brother, my grandma and my two great aunties walked from Mytholmroyd to Elland to raise money. We walked 8.37 miles and raised £235 from people sponsoring us, donating on a just giving page we made and from people dropping money into the bucket while we walked.

I hope this money will help you. I hope you have a great day.

Best wishes from Chloe.

1st Outlane (St Marys) Brownies

Towards my Charity badge



Working towards an interest badge and helping other people

Intercessions - Let us pray

Heavenly father as we gather together today we thank you once again for the skills and talents that have made this possible and which continue to sustain us through these long weeks and months. We ask you to bless and guide our Church leaders as they continue to react to an ever changing set of rules, striving to keep us safe while attempting to meet our longing to share fellowship in faith. We also bring before you all those congregations still unable to worship as we have done and ask that they may find a way to come together soon. Amen

Father we bring before you our world and it's many problems. We ask for healing for the many divisions so evident at this time and in particular we bring before you all those who feel harnessed and helpless in the face of disease, poverty and prejudice. We ask that compassion, tolerance and empathy replace self-interest, intolerance and hatred in the minds of all people, especially those in authority. We especially pray for wisdom and

guidance for our own government and local authorities as they attempt to make difficult decisions in ever changing circumstances. Amen

Heavenly Father, as we face another week of difficult restrictions and worrying predictions which so many of us are finding difficult to deal with, we ask for the strength and resilience we need to be a friend to those who need us, to support one another through our anxieties and fears, to care for our families, friends and neighbours and the faith to remain hopeful through the times ahead. We also continue to pray for all our key workers who continue to put themselves at risk for us and ask that they are given the support they need to do their jobs safely and protect their loved ones. Amen

Heavenly Father we pray for all those who are sick in body mind or spirit, especially any that we wish to pray for today... We continue to pray for all those suffering from the virus, their loved ones and all those who care for them. We also pray for all those who for many reasons are finding it difficult to cope at the moment and for all those whose medical care has been compromised by the pandemic. We especially pray for all those who are vulnerable, particularly those in care homes unable to see their loved ones and the staff caring for them. We ask for comfort and strength for all those in need and pray for your blessings on those working on treatments and vaccines. Amen

Finally Heavenly Father, we remember today all those who have gone before us, those who have died recently, especially for Elaine Knight who passed away a few days ago and for those who have died in the pandemic, for those whose anniversaries are around this time especially David Lightfoot and any others we wish to pray for ourselves today... we thank you for their love, friendship and our memories of them and we pray for comfort and strength for their loved ones. Finally, remembering God's gift of eternal life, we ask that they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen

In a moment of silence bring your own prayers

The Lords prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

Baking - lots of baking!!!

'Brownies bake off – 'No need to weigh' recipe

Need: 1 tablespoon 1 teaspoon 1 fork 1 knife 1 bowl Pastry brush (if available) Baking tray Margarine (out of fridge for an hour if possible) Self raising flour Sugar Milk Goodies eg, cherries, smarties, choc drop, currants/sultanas just a few!!!!	Recipe 1 level dessert spoon margarine 9 level dessert spoons SR flour 1 heaped teaspoon sugar 5 dessert spoons milk Mix margarine, flour and sugar Rub in Add milk and mix (using fork) Add few goodies Make mixture into a ball Cut into 4 (using knife) Roll into a ball and flatten a little Put on baking tray Cook for 10 minutes oven 200C
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Over the last 6 months our Brownies have been unable to meet face to face but that does not mean we have not been busy as a Brownie unit.

We thought you might like to see some of the activities the

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have being doing on their zoom meetings.