

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad  
Thurstaston and Irby  
27th September 2020 – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**



<p><b>Collect</b> Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>	<p><b>Post-Communion Prayer</b> Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>
<p><b>FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK</b>  <b>For our Community:</b> Please pray for children and young people returning to schools and colleges. Please pray the local lockdown measures help control the spread of Coronavirus.  <b>For our Church:</b> Please pray for the PCC as they prepare for the APCM and for wisdom as they seek to work out how and when to re-open for community groups. Please pray for Bishop Mark as he officially begins his ministry as Bishop of Chester.  <b>For the world:</b> Please continue to pray for countries struggling to reduce the number of Coronavirus infections and deaths.  <b>For those preparing for marriage:</b> Please pray for Peter and Diana to be married on 6th November.  <b>For the Sick:</b> Please continue to pray for Molly (aged 2), Karen Fox, Anna Drysdale, Audrey Fernyhough, Roy Fordham, Moira and Peter DeBoorder (Sister and Brother in law of Julie DeBoorder) and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.  <b>From the Diocesan Prayer Cycle:</b> (Prompted by the Gospel Reading for today)  Who do you think you are? Who do you identify with in this story of the Temple court? Is it those who do the will of the Father? Probably ... but remember how they are characterized here, and I don't just mean the generic 'tax collectors and prostitutes' label. For example, have you considered the circumstances of the family triangle in the parable? It is set in a peasant village where the houses are rudimentary and most activity takes place outdoors. What we mean by privacy didn't exist, and the rules of social place and honour applied in every circumstance. For the first son to say "no" to his father was a deeply shaming thing— everyone knew about it, everyone commented on the lack of respect, the father was derided for his lack of authority, the family was the subject of gossip. In other words, although the son eventually does the Father's will it is as at great cost to the Father's prestige and standing in the community—shades of the Father in the parable of Prodigal Son perhaps? Is the parable telling us how costly it is for the Father to give his children the freedom to find out who they think they are for themselves? Disarmingly the expression 'will of the father' occurs four other times in Matthew's gospel, and always in the context of Jesus' instruction of his disciples. Jesus' own prayer is that he might do his Father's will (26.42). Surely Matthew is urging his own community to follow the 'good son,' – to do the Father's will. And through his words to them, he urges us to do the same.  <b>From the Anglican Prayer Cycle:</b> Pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan Archbishop Ezekiel Kumir Kondo - Archbishop of the Province of Sudan &amp; Bishop of Khartoum.</p>	

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## OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

**18** The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> What 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"? <sup>3</sup> As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup> Know 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.

<sup>25</sup> 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? <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup> Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup> 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? <sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> 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? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

## Psalm 25:1-8

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
O my God, in you I trust; ♦  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame, ♦  
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.
- 3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord, ♦  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, ♦  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you have I hoped all the day long.
- 5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, ♦  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth  
or my transgressions, ♦  
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,  
according to your steadfast love.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; ♦  
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.
- 8 He will guide the humble in doing right ♦  
and teach his way to the lowly.

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING: Philippians 2:1-13**

**2** If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> 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; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

## **GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 21:23-32**

### **All: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>23</sup> 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?" <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> 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?'" <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup> He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> 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.

### **All: Praise to you, O Christ**

**Next Sunday: 4th October**

**BCP Communion St Bartholomew's 8.00am**

**Morning Worship St Chad's 9.30am**

Don't forget to book your seat

Details on front page of our website and circulated as a separate leaflet on 9th August - contact Parish Office if you need a copy.

**Sermon on Facebook and by email**

continues as throughout pandemic, posted after Service in church.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

This will be held (by Zoom) on **Monday 26th October at 6.00pm**

**Please put this date in your diary!**

Official notifications will follow in due course, but if you wish to attend the meeting, please let Revd Jane know, so that you can be sent the link to join in online, or a phone number which will allow you to join by phone call.

In advance of the APCM, we have to revise the **Electoral Roll** (Membership List of the Church). Official notices are displayed from 20th Sept - 3rd Oct with the revision (i.e. addition of new members) taking place between 4th-11th Oct.

Under the Church Representation Rules any lay persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if the person is—

- (a) is baptised,
- (b) is aged 16 or over, and
- (c) has made one of the following three declarations and duly applied for enrolment.

The first declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it and is resident in the parish.

The second declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, is not resident in the parish, but has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

The third declaration is that the person is a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is also a member of the Church of England and has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

Application Forms for enrolment can be obtained from the Church Electoral Roll Officer or the Parish Office or the Rector. In order for a person to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting and to take part in its proceedings, an Application Form for enrolment must be returned by the 11th Oct.

If you are not sure if you are on the electoral roll, please take a look in church or on the website:-

<https://www.thurstaston.org.uk/pcc-information/apcm-annual-parochial-church-meeting/>

**If you wish to be added to the roll, a form must be returned to the Rector by 11th Oct.**

**Wirral Coronavirus Helpline 0151 666 5050**

**WIRRAL**

**STAY AT HOME**

**PROTECT THE NHS**

**save lives**

[www.wirralinfobank.co.uk](http://www.wirralinfobank.co.uk)

**Welcome** to the online resource to help you find support services near you. We are here to support Wirral residents requiring advice, guidance and additional help during this ongoing and difficult coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.