



Filey Parish

St. Oswald's St. John's St. Thomas'

Filey Parish Link

Sunday 20th September 2020

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect of the day Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

God who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the Gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

or

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

BCP Collect

Keep, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord

Readings for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 16: 2-15 Jonah 3: 10 to end of 4 Philemon 1: 21 to end
Matthew 20: 1-16

Zoom Worship **New log in and passcode**

Sunday evenings at 6pm, Wednesday and Thursday Mornings at 9am and on the first Monday of every month at 9am, using Zoom.

Zoom Prayers for Outreach

will be happening on Mondays at 10am.

To join Zoom meetings click on this link or use the log in details below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4216335851> Or open your zoom app

Meeting ID: 421 633 5851

Passcode: "Oswald"

Matthew 20: 1-16

This is the Gospel reading for Sunday and a fascinating story by Jesus – The Kingdom of Heaven is not a hierarchy of people with more to gain because they have been faithful servants and followers the longest. The Kingdom is a place of equality where all receive the same remuneration for their faith. A place in the Kingdom of Heaven. Grumble away as much as you like, but you, me nor Archbishop Stephen is not going to be given a better place than the person who comes to faith then breath their last. We chose to follow Christ, he calls us to himself. Some follow all their lives, some come to faith later, and some much later. With joy we should accept that fact.

Our purpose is to build the Kingdom, to share God's love and generosity, to multiply those who come to follow Jesus, not keep an eye on what our personal reward may be in the end. It is to be faithful to God's calling, not negotiating a price for our dedication to work for the Kingdom. There is no pension plan required in Heaven!

Merciful Lord, good father to us all

Instil in me the joy of knowing you.

Pour upon me the riches of your grace;

may it overflow to a world in need of you

and let me stand in your presence forevermore,

together with all you call to be at your side

Amen.

From the Vicar

As you will all be aware, the Government has introduced new regulations making it illegal for groups of more than six people to meet. The regulations intend to limit the spread of the virus by minimising close physical contact as much as possible. When deciding whether to proceed with any activity, depending on local circumstances, we have to bear this principle in mind.

Whilst it is everyone's responsibility to comply with the law, church leadership also has to ensure we comply with the law when organising church activities in order to protect parishioners and the public, especially those most vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19. Public Worship is essentially unaffected, beyond the requirement that people attending must not be part of a group of more than six unless they are from the same household or support bubble.

The previous advice, however, about trying to minimise “social interaction” before and after services becomes even more significant now.

A church group (e.g. Bible Study / church committee) can meet in someone’s home as long as there are no more than six people in the house in total, including those (eg family members) not taking part in the group at that time.

Groups can meet on church premises under the same conditions as apply to services of worship – i.e with the capacity based on the risk assessment for the building, whilst maintaining distancing, rules on face coverings and ensuring that people attending are not part of a group of more than six unless they are from the same household or support bubble.

However, Government guidance states that: “...activities and social groups where there is a significant likelihood of groups mixing and socialising (and where it will be difficult to prevent mingling and therefore breaking the law) should not take place in a community facility.”

This means that a careful risk assessment will need to be in place which includes the steps that those leading the activity will take to prevent mingling and socialising. This means more work for us to do to make sure we’re complying.

Whilst church choirs can rehearse with more than six people, guidance suggests where there is a significant likelihood of mixing and socialising particular care should be taken in relation to the risk assessment for them. Also while singing at services we must not let our guard down and compromise those risk assessments.

I know that we share in the sadness that we are still not able to meet together in the ways that we could before March. We continue to pray for those in our communities most in need of the love and care of Christ in these challenging days. Regrettably it does mean that a number of our activities will remain “virtual” for the time being, though having said that Zoom morning prayers and Sunday night prayers have become a real blessing for those not venturing out.

Friday Communion

Thank you to the two people who have asked me about this service. While I fully understand that some of you are missing the Friday service this is the one that has become the most logistically difficult and risk filled one to get going again.

There are a number of factors, not least that we simply do not have the available clergy to maintain a weekly service anymore. Friday is deadline day for the weekly (instead of monthly) news that reaches over 150 people every week. This has become a major priority and means of communication during lockdown and beyond. Until very recently many of those who would attend Friday have not been going out and demographically this group is perhaps the most vulnerable according to age and underlying health conditions. It would have been foolish to start again too soon.

Now that the work on St John's Centre is about to start the centre will become a building site for 3 months. Half the car park is going to be used up and cordoned off by the builders and Friday being work day will be noisy, dusty and dirty with potential for increased HGV traffic in the car park.

I have therefore in consultation with the Wardens and clergy decided that we cannot hold a Friday Communion at St John's until the New Year.

Pattern of Services

This brings me to the overall pattern of services in the parish. We do not have the capacity any longer to offer all the services we used to do before March. Simply put, we may never get back to what we used to do. To enable services in all our churches every week is impossible, and we need to move to more Lay led services. During Autumn we will have a certain amount of experimentation with this. At the moment St Oswald's is the only church that has a weekly service – but that may have to change too!

Future 'Events' Services

4th October	10.30am	St Oswald's Parish Harvest
1st November	TBC	St Oswald's All Souls Memorial Service
8th November	10.30am	St Oswald's with Act of Remembrance (No parade)
	10.00am	St John's Holy Communion
29th November	10.30am	St Oswald's Advent (Joint Service)

Christmas

Just close your eyes and insert in your mind a picture of me with my head in my hands!!

At the moment our thoughts are:

Crib Service – A ‘virtual’ fun packed service available on line

Midnight Service – TBC – or Cancelled please watch one on TV.

Christmas Day – TBC but possibly 9am said Holy Communion

I will confirm these as soon as possible, but please be assured that I am doing all I can to maintain some level of services for all our churches and congregations.

With every blessing

Rev Nigel

Pauline Bell

It is with sadness to announce that Pauline Bell passed away this week. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers. Further details will be available soon.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Due to no further nominations received we are pleased to announce our Wardens for the coming year:

Angela Burkitt	St Oswald's
Graham Simpson	St Oswald's
Ann Simpson	St John's
Pam Roberts	St John's
Patrick Malton	St Thomas'

PCC - for a term of three years:

Claire Stubbs, Janice Midwood, Michael Prince, Maggie Hebden and Graham Tillotson.

Deanery Synod -for a term of three years

Claire Stubbs

New Vicarage telephone number (07434 651658)

The landline number is out of service now. Please make a note of the new number! You can call, text or leave a message if needed.

Covid 19 - Safety in our Churches

When you come to any of our churches this is what you MUST do.

On entry

- Wear a mask. (Unless you can produce your exemption certificate)
- Sanitise your hands with gel provided.
- Register on entry for NHS 'Test and Trace' - (These are to be kept for 21 days and then destroyed). Someone will be available at the entrance to facilitate this.
 - ◊ Name, Address and Contact telephone number is required. If there is more than one person, then we record the name of the 'lead member' of the group and the number of people in the group
 - ◊ Date of visit, arrival time and, where possible, departure time
 - ◊ Regular members still need to register their names when coming in

Moving around

- Stay 2 meters apart and observe the one way systems in place.
- Use only designated seats. (Triangulate spaces that are 2 meters apart and do not sit directly in front/behind someone else. Usually we put a service sheet in the places available. Follow instructions by Wardens/Sides-persons.

Singing

- No singing is allowed at all by anyone other than the choir who must be socially distanced.
- Choir must wear masks at all times, except when they are singing.

Leading

- Those leading and involved in any part of the service can remove their mask for the duration of the time they are carrying out their involvement.

Holy Communion

- In one kind (Bread), the President takes wine on behalf of all.
- Instructions will be given about receiving communion at each service.

Above all if you feel at all unsafe at any time, then please move to another space where you do feel safe.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Wardens or the Vicar.

From Angela Burkitt

This week I have chosen to explore the way of praying known as 'Lectio Divina' (Divine Reading). A few weeks ago we explored how to 'Care for Creation' and now, thanks to Sir David Attenborough, we are asked to urgently consider the crisis of 'Extinction' for thousands of created species. Shocking images of forests being felled, one image touched me when a little animal sat in a tree watching his/her home being destroyed, its eyes followed the tree to the ground. Large shoals of fish being scooped out of the oceans for human consumption; the fish trying in desperation to escape the net; the image of two African rhinoceros, being lovingly cared for; mother and daughter are now the only two in the world, and one day they will be no more. Images of animals being tortured and killed in cages – all very shocking and unnecessary.

Wildfires, melting ice, scorching landscapes. We humans are damaging God's creation by greed. We desecrate farmland for more housing, we build more train lines and runways.

I asked, in a recent Parish Link – 'What can we do about this situation'. We can pledge to pray for and with creation, and we can pledge to live more simply by treading lightly. I would like to expand on that prayer, not to leave you wondering where to begin.

Lectio Divina - this way of praying with the scriptures was common in monastic life from the time of Benedictine onwards – and probably before. Its strength lies in its very simplicity and it requires very little of us to begin, other than the desire to be open to God and to give God time. It is not primarily an 'intellectual' form of prayer and it is important that you try not to become too involved in theological speculation, instead the prayer is one of gentle connection with God, of listening to the insights you are given and responding from the heart.

One first reads the text (*lectio*), meditates on a word or phrase (*meditatio*), and prays (*oratio*) with a question or insight that may arise. Finally, through the grace of God, one might be lead into contemplation of simply resting in God's presence.

Ensure you have at least 15 minutes of uninterrupted time and that you are comfortable and ready to pray. Take a few minutes to reflect on all that is in your mind and heart from the day so that it does not distract you too much when you begin the lectio divina, and when

you are ready to, move into the prayer.

Read the passage through very slowly twice so that you understand the context, then begin to read it through much more slowly.

As a word or phrase leaps out at you just stay with it, repeating it gently over and over while your mind reflects on it as it needs to. Try to avoid `thinking it out' or creating a theological argument from it – simply let it feed you – notice how you feel; what occurs to you; what you want to say to God; what you want to remember. Let your mind wander at this stage, moving from point to point and gently deepening your connection with God and your understanding and response.

When you have absorbed enough from this phrase, begin reading again until the next phrase or word attracts you and repeat the process. After 15 minutes bring the session to a close.

A good way to start is always at the beginning:

and God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." (Genesis 1 : 20-22)

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: live-stock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind. And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1 : 24-25)



(Original photograph taken by
Angela Burkitt – Cuthbert's Cross,
Northumberland)