

The Parish of North Wearside To gather, To gether, To grow!

4th October 2020 : 17th Sunday after Trinity
This Sunday is at Holy Trinity 10am

Contact us:

Rev'd Jen Bradshaw

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Or email us on northwearsideparish@gmail.com

Today we welcome Tony and Becca as they begin their Beacon Project roles with us today.

This week on Zoom:

Bible Study Monday 7pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82695963903?pwd=WTY4cUI5QWZsU2ZJUERHdkNpbyszQT09>

Morning Prayer Tuesdays at 10.30, Fridays at 10am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3743717935?pwd=eUVYZitRMmhLR1NSOGR2RmEyNXhkUT09> This is the link for morning prayer.

CHURCH OPENING TIMES THIS WEEK:

Sun 4 Oct Evening prayer 6pm at St Cuthberts inc. The Bible dvd

Wed 7 Sept Quiet prayer 5.30pm at St. Cuthberts

 Holy Communion 6.30pm (returning to 6pm in due course)

 PCC at 7pm at St. Cuthberts

Fri 9 Sep Open Prayer 11.30 at Holy Trinity

Sunday 11 Holy Communion 10am St. Cuthberts

At Holy Trinity on the Sundays when there is a service, quiet prayer the Friday before or Monday following will not take place to allow 72 hrs before opening.

There is **no** expectation to attend if you are in the vulnerable category.

Masks are now mandatory in churches except for the leader speaking.

I hope you will be able to use your stand alone “lockdown liturgy” as distributed last week at home and use the prayer points and reflection that follow:

For our prayers this week please pray for:

Tony Harbottle-Noppen (Families Chaplain) and Becca Cooper (Youth Worker) who are joining us as part of the Beacon Team this week.

Aaron Morris who will be baptised at noon today at Holy Trinity.

Those on the memories list this week are: **Jim Wilson. John Edward Proctor. Christopher Borthwick. Lawrence Falkner and Frederick and Marjorie Jackson**

The family of Eric Keegan and others whose have died recently.

The Collect:

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen

The Readings:

[Exodus 20: 1 – 20;](#) [Philippians 3: 4 – 14;](#) [Matthew 21: 33 – end](#)

Reflection

Our readings today include the parable of the wicked vineyard tenants. Matthew is now in a section of his gospel where he is making it quite clear that the attitude of the scribes and pharisees is wrong - they are quite clearly the “wicked tenants” in this parable, the ones who abused and killed all the owner’s servants, messengers and even his son. They were on shaky moral ground! In a marvellous piece of verbal chess-playing a little earlier, Jesus has established they can’t challenge him

openly (even though he has recently smashed up the stalls in the temple) because the people believe he is a prophet and has God's authority (which he does!). Its worth reading chapters 20 to 23 all in one go to get the full force of Jesus' argument against them. Ouch it must smart and be humiliating! In this parable he asks them what would the landowner do to those wicked tenants? They reply, "he will put them to a horrible death and get others to tend the vineyard" Then when they realise the parable is about themselves they see they've suggested their own punishment! Ha ha – jolly well serves them right! That's my immediate response I'm slightly ashamed to admit. But what we see through a longer lens is that **Jesus is the Son** – he has taken that horrible death prescribed and God in all goodness has opened the vineyard for all people - not only the new tenants (Jesus' followers) but even perhaps those original tenants should they only see who he is.
Thank you, God that you are grace, and truth. That your justice is always tempered with mercy and you give as Jesus deserves not as we do. Help us to live lives marked by Jesus' love and challenge. Amen

NOTICES:

The new Covid-19 rules allow:

- Worship to continue up to the risk-assessed numbers agreed for the space in church. (So we can carry on as we have been for now)
- Business meetings to carry on the work of the church to be held.
- Funerals to have up to 30 people present
- Weddings to have up to 15 people present
- Baptisms **outside** normal worship only 6 people (plus vicar & verger) but if part of Sunday worship the family are included in the risk assessed numbers for worship.

The photocopier is broken! It should be mended on Monday but apologies to those who normally get a notice sheet on Saturday – it will be late this week and there are no spares to distribute today. If you can print a copy for a neighbour please do!

Build up Holy Trinity. We have £4,323 donated!

Our GoFundMe link is <https://www.gofundme.com/build-up-holy-trinity-southwick> Bev continues her epic walk – less than 100 miles left!

Mothers' Union - Hello to All Members

I hope you are well and coping during this time.

Please continue with Midday Prayer - somewhere in the world it will be Midday!

Our support continues to be given where needed. We may not be meeting but our work continues. We have helped the refugee children laptop project and received a "Thankyou".

Please offer prayers for Indoor Members.

Take Care. Stay Safe. God bless, Kathleen. Branch Leader.

PCC – Wednesday 7th October at 7pm at St.Cuthberts

We will meet in person, socially distanced, but we understand if you do not feel you can attend. If you'd like to attend remotely we will try to organise that. The agenda and draft minutes are available by email or there are a few copies available at the back of each church.

Also a **BIG thank you** in advance to the **PCC** for ploughing through all the Beacon Project policies and essential paperwork to ensure we are properly compliant as employers.

Included this week is a form for nominating people to be wardens, members of the PCC or Deanery Synod reps. Please use them over the next weeks before the **AGM on 25th October**.

There is a copy of the current electoral roll (names only) for you to look at and make any amendments. If someone would like to be added to the electoral roll please complete a form also available electronically from the parish website or Jen can supply one.

Thank you to **Hayley, Ryan, Becca, Rob and Tony** for their painting of the office and stairwell at Holy Trinity last week. It looks so light and smart!