

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
4th October 2020 – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**



<p>Collect Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>	<p>Post-Communion Prayer Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>
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FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community: Please pray the local lockdown measures help control the continuing rise of Coronavirus infections.

For our Church: 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.

For the world: Please continue to pray for countries struggling to reduce the number of Coronavirus infections and deaths. Please pray for wisdom in the upcoming election in America.

For those preparing for marriage: Please pray for Peter and Diana to be married on 6th November.

For the Sick: 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.

From the Diocesan Prayer Cycle: (Prompted by the Gospel Reading for today) Today's Gospel is a midrash on Isaiah 5—in other words a kind of amplifying exposition and interpretation of scripture that fill it out, as it were—a way of handling scripture that the rabbis loved. The plot is simple: a man constructs a vineyard – reminiscent of God's care in Isaiah 5. He leases the vineyard to others and then wants his share of the produce. He sends three servants, whom the tenants rough up and kill, followed by another set more numerous than the first, who are treated the same way. A bad lot, these tenants! With seemingly obtuse logic, the owner muses that if he sends his son, they will respect him. Not surprisingly, the tenants see this as an act of powerless desperation and kill the son. As in Isaiah, the mood shifts. The owner will come, 'and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.' These others will produce just and fair fruit. In all the Gospels the parable becomes an allegory of the rejection of Jesus by the Jerusalem establishment, which results in the destruction of the Temple (in the year 70) and the transfer of the vineyard to other tenants. But I wonder whether on the lips of Jesus there aren't subtler shades to it. The utterly illogical action of the owner in sending the son reflects that pattern in which a long-suffering and compassionate God reaches out in the face of the most blatant forms of apostasy and idolatry (think, for example of Hosea 11-12). So, a better title for today's Gospel might be The Long-Suffering God rather than The Wicked Tenants. The readings today re-enact on the vast and eternal scale of God's abiding love the age-old tragedy of spurned love. Love that should grow all kinds of beautiful things is refused or abused. What had promised delight turns into crucifying hurt—literally. We are the gifted tenants of the vineyard of God – Isaiah and Matthew remind us what the consequences of neglecting that tenancy will be.

From the Anglican Prayer Cycle: Pray for the Anglican Church of Tanzania Archbishop Dr Maimbo Mndolwa - Archbishop of Tanzania & Bishop of Tanga

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

5 Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

2 He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

4 What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

5 And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

6 I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
Is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Psalm 80:9-17

9 You brought a vine out of Egypt; ♦
you drove out the nations and planted it.

10 You made room around it, ♦
and when it had taken root, it filled the land.

11 The hills were covered with its shadow ♦
and the cedars of God by its boughs.

12 It stretched out its branches to the Sea ♦
and its tendrils to the River.

13 Why then have you broken down its wall, ♦
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

14 The wild boar out of the wood tears it off, ♦
and all the insects of the field devour it.

15 Turn again, O God of hosts, ♦
look down from heaven and behold;

16 Cherish this vine which your right hand has planted, ♦
and the branch that you made so strong for yourself.

17 Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it down, ♦
perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 21:33-46

All: Glory to you, O Lord

³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?'

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Next Sunday: 11th October

Morning Worship St Bartholomew's 11.15am

Holy Communion 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

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.