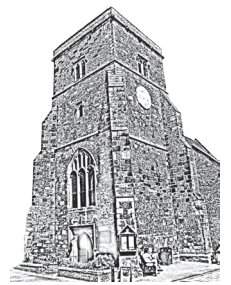


The Parish Church of
St Thomas à Becket
Cliffe High Street, Lewes



Welcome to our service of Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer. It is lovely to have you with us this morning. Unfortunately, we are still not permitted to sing, and Communion can be in one-kind only: received in silence while standing at the foot of the chancel steps. Until Cliffe Hall re-opens, we are unable to meet for coffee or use the facilities.

Sunday 26th July 2020

T R I N I T Y V I I

WE have all been living in an environment of uncertainty over these recent months under lock down. There will be many whose anxiety includes concern for food and the daily essential needs of life, for we are all human.

Our gospel reading from Mark for this Sunday is the account of the feeding of the 4,000. The great crowds had gathered to follow Jesus and His disciples and now were pressing uppermost with their need for food. We are told that they had nothing to eat and Jesus calls his disciples and says to them 'I have compassion on the multitude because they have now been with me three days and have nothing to eat.'

This story resembles and reminds us so much of that account of the feeding of the 5,000 just a bit earlier in chapter 6 of Mark's gospel. The contexts are very similar indeed and invite comparison. Jesus may well have, however, decided to perform the miracles on two separate occasions for specific focus and understanding not just for those present but for us, His hearers. So let us consider and reflect on their significance and influence.

Saint Mark, it is consid-

ered by theologians, may well have written his gospel placing the two accounts closely together so that they draw us to consider and reflect upon them both as one. That at least is how the early Christian church came to view them and most particularly for the Eucharistic theme they proclaimed. We read that Jesus 'took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake and gave to his disciples to set before them.'

It is very interesting to learn from the Commentator G. Nineham that theologians through the centuries have considered that Saint Mark may have meant the feeding of the 5000 to resemble the feeding of the Bread of Life to the Jews and the feeding of the 4000 to resemble the feeding of the Bread of Life to the Gentiles. It is held that the Galilean setting of the 5000 was a largely Jewish crowd and that the setting of the 4000 was amongst a largely Gentile population in the area of Decapolis which is referred to in the previous chapter 7 of Mark's gospel.

This being the case shows us that Jesus intended to feed the whole people of God's creation, Jews and Gentiles, with Himself, the true Bread of life. We there-

fore can see the impact of Mark's gospel with the way he places these two miracle accounts of feeding the crowds. Furthermore, in both accounts we read that there was more than sufficient to go around, for the needs of all were met.

The giving of Jesus with himself to the peoples is indeed to reveal that infinite love of God for the redemption of all His people. Here their human earthly needs of food were met but in the giving of Himself, His dying and rising, opens that welcomed embrace to fulfil the spiritual needs of each and every one of us, loved into the kingdom of heaven.

Our collect today also speaks to us of God nourishing us with all goodness. Lastly, we read that having feed the crowd Jesus 'sent them away'. We too, having come together each Sunday to worship God and to receive His spiritual feeding and the sacrament, are sent out back into our world each week, refreshed and renewed to live and proclaim His glory. May you all have a happy and blessed week ahead sustained by God's love and infinite Grace. Amen.

Fr Herbert.

Sunday 26th July 2020

TRINITY VII



SUMMER FAIR – SADLY CANCELLED

With deep regret, the 2020 Cliffe Summer Fair has been CANCELLED.

Without a guarantee of fine weather, it would be impossible to hold the entire event in the Hall and maintain social distancing.

Any donation, in lieu of the amount you would have spent at the Fair, would be gratefully received; either in the Plate or to Imogen or Sue Hammond.

CHURCH CLEANING

Continued thanks to our hard-working cleaning team without whom we could not keep the church open. They perform an anti-viral clean each and every day and we are enormously grateful to them for their diligence.



CLIFFE HALL

The hall is preparing to open shortly but there will be no catering access, so we must wait a while longer to meet for tea and coffee after our services. We should soon have access to a toilet again though.

FACE MASKS

The CofE now strongly advises that face coverings should be worn by all attending a place of worship, including ministers.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Parish prayer requests are an important part of our ministry and pastoral care.

Given the current circumstances written requests may be left in the offertory plate. Each Sunday, Fr. Herbert will then pray for them all himself, until we can have paper and pen available for requests to be written.



INTERREGNUM

The process has begun to seek a new Rector for the benefice.

Archdeacon Martin convened a progress meeting with the Lord Chancellor's Dept (on behalf of our Patron, The Crown), Canon Judith as Rural Dean, and the Churchwardens from the three parishes.

We were advised that it will not be a quick process and that the vacancy will be widely advertised on 4th Sept.

We pray that a faithful pastor may be found to lead us:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall Choose a rector for this benefice, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S COLLECT

LORD of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

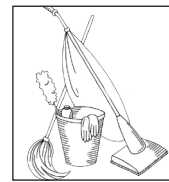
DECORATING

Painting of the porch area is now well underway, and we are grateful to our friendly decorator, Dave, for his work.

At times when the new paint is wet, signs are in place to enter/exit the church via the south door. Mind the steps though.



HALL CLEANER WANTED



Do you know anyone who could fill the vacancy of a part-time cleaner at Cliffe

Hall? The work is not difficult but attention to detail is paramount as is reliability and flexibility of time. Please ask anyone interested to contact the Hall Manager by email: cliffehallewes@yahoo.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

We hope to publish our usual newsletter again soon, so please send in your items in the usual way. Until then we will continue with this weekly update which will be left on pews on Sunday mornings.



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