

As mentioned last week, we had some devastating news recently that the south aisle roof gully needs complete replacement. The work is likely to cost some £20,000 and we are so indebted to Cliffe Feoffees for agreeing to fund the bulk of this for us.

Failure of the lead gully has allowed water in, damaging structural timbers and causing the visible staining on the south wall of the church.

The church architect is busy obtaining quotes for the work and seeking formal authority to undertake the repairs in the form of a Faculty from the diocese.

### ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

On Tuesday, 29th September, we celebrate the Feast of St Michael and All Angels with Holy Communion at 7am and Evening Prayer at 6pm. All welcome.

### CLIFFE HALL

The Hall's disabled toilet is now usable. Please speak to the sidesman for access. Sadly we are still not able to meet for coffee after church.

### CHRISTMAS

At its next meeting, the PCC will discuss arrangements for Christmas services. Sadly the Christmas Fair has been CANCELLED.

Our plans for Harvest Thanksgiving have had to be curtailed due to the pandemic. There will be NO Harvest Supper this year and Harvey's have CANCELLED their Thanksgiving service. We will still decorate the church with seasonal flowers and foliage for next Sunday's service.

### FACE MASKS

Face coverings are now mandatory in churches and should be worn at all times except when receiving Communion, apart from those who have any of the exemptions.

### PRAYERS

We pray for all those who cannot be with us this morning, including: Pam Swabey, Joan Bishop and Ken Allbon.

If you know of anyone who's not coming to church at the moment but who would like to receive either this pew sheet or to speak (on the 'phone) with Fr Herbert, please let Trevor have the details.

### MARY BENNETT

Mary Bennett's funeral will take place in church, led by Fr Herbert, on Friday 2nd October at 2.30pm.

With the current strict restrictions on numbers, places will be taken by family and close friends.

### WEDNESDAY

Coffee at Irma's is on the first Wednesday of the month from 10.30am –



that means this week, October 6th, plus Nov 4th and Dec 2nd.

### EVENING PRAYER

A reminder that Evening Prayer will be said tonight at 6pm and all are welcome.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Parish prayer requests may be left in the offertory plate.



PLEASE TAKE THIS SHEET AWAY WITH YOU



Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Trinity XVI



Welcome to our service of Holy Communion. We are pleased to welcome back our Associate Vicar, Fr Herbert, and remember him, and John, in our prayers at this time.

We give thanks for the life of their faithful mother, Mary.

A reminder that Communion is in one kind only, the host, received in silence while standing at the foot of the chancel steps.

### The Collect

O Lord, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Epistle - Ephesians 3.13-end

I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

### The Gospel - St. Luke 7.11-17

And it came to pass the day after, that Jesus went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier; and they that bare him stood still: and he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak: and he delivered him to his mother. And there came a fear on all, and they glorified God, saying, that a great Prophet is risen up among us, and that God hath visited his people. And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about.



Cliffe High Street, LEWES BN7 2AH  
Email: warden@st-thomas-lewes.org.uk

Tel: 01273 937678  
www.st-thomas-lewes.org.uk





**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 chancel steps. Please follow the one-way system: down the centre aisle and back to your pew via the side aisles.

This pew sheet contains the weekly Collect, Epistle and Gospel reading, as well as notices. Please keep it for

reference. The service is as per our usual White Booklets, with the exception of hymns, which are omitted currently.

Please do not congregate in the church after the service but make your way outside where Fr Herbert and Br George will be waiting to greet you.

## SERMON

**I**N THIS Sunday's gospel reading we find ourselves in the Galilean region where Jesus has entered the city of Nain, accompanied by His disciples and a great crowd. He has just come from Capernaum where He has cured the sick slave of the Centurion.

We hear that the only son of the widow has died and amid the hustle and bustle of the crowd, and no doubt the excitement of Jesus coming amongst them, Jesus steps aside and has compassion on the widow, we are told. Jesus then tells the widow to 'weep not' and then touches the bier and calls her son back to life.

This story of the widow of Nain is representative of the very essence of Jesus' miracles. It records the serious circumstances – the death of the son, the word that Jesus commands – 'arise', the result of that – the son rising back to life, and the effect on the crowds witnessing.

St Luke, we remember is the disciple whose gospel concerns itself with people on a very personal level, as we see here. It is St Luke the physician who details the accounts of the sick slave of the Centurion and here the son of

the widow who has died. However, St Luke has recorded this story to give emphasis to the compassion of Jesus whose love for the individual and concern for the widow is paramount in his miracle working, for we read that upon the dead son being restored to life Jesus delivers him to his mother. What a witness to the crowds of God's love, his all-embracing and redemptive love.

Jesus' concern is for her, the widow, primarily, for he was her only son. This restoring of the son's life echoes that story from 1 Kings chapter 17 in the Old Testament where Elijah restored the widow's son to life and delivered him back to his mother. There the women said to Elijah 'Now by this I know that thou art a man of God'. Similarly, we read that upon the widow of Nain's son being restored to life the crowds said 'that a great Prophet is risen up among us and that God hath visited his people'.

That miracle of Jesus in restoring the widow's son to life is also reflected in the accounts concerning the raising of Jairus' daughter and of course the raising of Lazarus. Jesus had recalled to life those who were deemed as dead. In that

of the raising of Lazarus, you will recall Jesus saying to Martha 'thy brother shall rise again'. And there was weeping and we are told Jesus wept too. Then here in our gospel reading today Jesus says to the widow 'weep not'.

This reference to 'weeping not' is strongly linked to the essence of Hope and, as we are told in Romans chapter 5 concerning suffering that 'hope maketh not ashamed' or hope does not disappoint us because God's love is poured into our hearts. That hope is in the promise of eternal life.

Jesus told Martha 'I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live'. Martha replied 'Yea, Lord, I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God which should come into the world'. And this weeping in hope brings us to that great vision proclaimed in Revelation chapter 21 'And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying...for the former things are passed away'. That is the redemptive love of God through Christ. That is our sure hope.

Amen.

*Fr Herbert*

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
 T R I N I T Y X I V

Next week our Sunday morning Eucharist will include Harvest Thanksgiving and we will be decorating the church on Friday morning. Any donations of flowers or foliage welcome, please see Rosemary.

Apologies for the printing quality – issues with both our usual printers this week.