

## ANNUAL MEETINGS

Our Annual Meetings took place on Friday and we welcomed Canon Judith to St Thomas' as Rural Dean. Along with the Churchwarden, the Rural Dean is sequestrator during the interregnum, and responsible for running the parish until a new Rector is appointed.

We welcome Peter Varlow to the PCC; Ruth and Martha are our new Deanery Synod reps; Trevor was re-elected Churchwarden, Sue PCC Secretary and Treasurer, Joanna remains our Safeguarding Officer, and Helen as Electoral Roll Officer. More next week.

## COFFEE

As autumn approaches we will revert to our previous arrangement of meeting for coffee at Irma's on the first Wednesday morning of the month from 10.20am:

October 6th,  
November 4th  
and  
December  
2nd



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## 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.

## Bp LEWES

The recently consecrated bishop of Lewes [Will Hazelwood] will be formally installed in Chichester cathedral at a special service on Sunday next, 13th September.

Everyone will be able to follow the celebrations via a live streaming on the Sunday afternoon using this link: <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/liveservices/>

We offer our prayers for Bishop Will at this time.

## THANKS

Trevor thanks everyone for their birthday wishes, cards and our parish gift. He says he will enjoy every sip!

## 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.

## RECTOR

We pray for a faithful pastor to lead us:

*ALMIGHTY God, the giver of every good gift, look graciously, we beseech thee, on thy Church, and so guide with thy heavenly wisdom the minds of those to whom is committed the choice of a Rector for this benefice, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who shall feed thy flock according to thy will, and make ready a people acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ, thine only Son our Lord. Amen.*

## ORTHODOX

We are delighted to welcome back Fr. Ian and the Orthodox congregation who are worshipping here again at 11.30am on Sundays.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Parish prayer requests may be left in the offertory plate.



PLEASE TAKE THIS SHEET AWAY WITH YOU

Tel: 01273 937678  
[www.st-thomas-lewes.org.uk](http://www.st-thomas-lewes.org.uk)



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

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Trinity XIII



## THE COLLECT

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, of whose only gift it cometh that thy faithful people do unto thee true and laudable service: Grant, we beseech thee, that we may so faithfully serve thee in this life, that we fail not finally to attain thy heavenly promises; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE EPISTLE - Galatians 3.16-22

TO Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And this I say, that the covenant that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise. Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come, to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one; but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

## THE GOSPEL - St. Luke 10.23-37

BLESSED are the eyes which see the things that ye see. For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them. And behold, a certain Lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right; this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain Priest that way, and, when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was; and, when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow, when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

**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.

This pew sheet now contains the weekly Collect, Epistle and Gospel reading, as well as notices.

The A3 service sheet is generic and, when we run out we will start to use our

white service booklets again, storing them safely between Sundays.

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** WONDER how many of you might have been to the Holy Land and visited the Road to Jericho ?

For those who have not been, the road descends from Jerusalem to Jericho in a straight path downwards that passes the half-way point of sea level. Whilst it is a busy road the region is indeed desolate and the terrain rough.

This famous passage is very well known to us all and yet the discourse between Jesus and the lawyer is reminiscent generally of the inclination of humanity, for the lawyer presents himself as a follower of the ethic of law whilst Jesus speaks of the law of love.

The lawyer thought that the way in life was led by obeying the religious law. Jesus, however, showed that life was about love of God and neighbour as being the essence of God's kingdom.

The lawyer desired to see moral duties as definite and obtainable yet Jesus presents the challenge as unlimited and open to all options, for love knows no bounds. The lawyer asks his question 'Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life ?' to put Jesus to the test.

By contrast, St Mark in Chapter 12 of his gospel records one of the Scribes similarly testing Jesus, and Jesus in response summing up the

entire worshipful duty as being in the two great commandments from Deuteronomy Chapter 6: 'And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might'; and Leviticus Chapter 19: 'But thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself'. This is the completeness of God's law and is what we say each Sunday in our liturgy.

The rabbis had assumed that the whole law consisted of all the commandments and that observance of those was how love for God should be shown. The lawyer was bound by that belief that love for God was shown by observing His laws.

However, where people were concerned limits could be set on whether to serve them in observance of the law. So for instance Gentiles could be excluded and so that begs the question -who is thy neighbour ?.

The Samaritan, by contrast, showed love for the neighbour he found by the roadside. It is an important aspect to note that the injured man is recorded as being 'half dead' because the Priest and the Levite could not tell the man's status, whether or not he was alive, without touching him and that would of course have contravened their laws.

We see how the Samaritan cared for the

injured man both at the time, the following day and on his returned visit later. There is a cost to genuine loving service in time, effort and financial giving. There are no limits where love is concerned.

Whilst the lawyer's response to Jesus' question was right the scenario of the story alarmed the lawyer that a Samaritan could be nearer to God in loving service to a neighbour than he and others whose attentions were devoted instead to observing the letter of the law.

In conclusion we might surmise that religious observance is a strict set of rules to some people, like the lawyer, whilst to others, like the Samaritan, it was an unlimited opportunity to serve others.

The theologian G.B.Caird makes a defining point in this respect. He says that 'the proper question is 'to whom can I be a neighbour?' and the answer is 'to anyone whose need constitutes a claim on my love''. And this is the call for each of us as we go along our Jericho road each day.

Amen

*Fr Herbert*

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.

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