

ALL SAINTS' DAY

NEXT Sunday (1st November) we mark All Saints' Day which is followed on November 2nd by All Souls' Day when traditionally the names of the Faithful Departed are read. If you would like to add a name to the list, please let Trevor or Fr. Herbert know by 10am on Friday (30th October) so that they may be included: warden@st-thomas-lewes.org.uk

2021 DATES

With things still very much uncertain, planning for next year is still underway with the following dates earmarked for our key church events in 2021, should they be permitted to take place:

- Tues 16th February: Pancakes and Beetle Drive.
- Saturday 3rd April - Easter Vigil,
- Sunday 23rd May - Cream Teas.
- Saturday 28th August - Cliffe Summer Fair.
- Sunday 3rd September - Harvest Supper.
- Saturday 4th Dec - Christmas Fair.

CHRISTMAS

At its next meeting, the PCC will discuss arrangements for Christmas services. Sadly, the Christmas Fair this year has been CANCELLED due to Covid restrictions.

FACE MASKS

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

CLIFFE HALL

The Hall toilets are now usable, the sidesman has the key. Sadly we are still not able to meet for coffee.

NOTICES

If you have a notice for the Pew Sheet, please let Trevor have it by 9am on Friday.

PRAYERS

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Parish prayer requests may be left in the offertory plate.



REMEMBRANCE

On Remembrance Sunday (8th November) we shall read of the Roll of the Fallen as we recall those from the parish who died in service of their country during recent conflicts.

EVENING PRAYER

A reminder that Evening Prayer will be said tonight at 6pm. All welcome.

SS SIMON & JUDE

We mark the Feast of St Simon and St Jude on Wednesday (28 Oct) with a Festal Eucharist at 7am and said Evening Prayer at 6pm.

PBS MAGAZINE

If you would like a copy of the new-issue Prayer Book Society magazine, they are in the vestry; please just ask.

PLEASE
TAKE THIS SHEET
AWAY WITH YOU

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

Sunday 25th October 2020
Trinity XX



Welcome to our service of Holy Communion. Today's Celebrant and preacher is our Associate Vicar, Fr Herbert Bennett.

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 Almighty and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that thou wouldest have done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Epistle – Ephesians 5.15-21

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs; singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

The Gospel – St. Matthew 22.1-14

Jesus said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, who made a marriage for his son; and sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding; and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready; come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: and the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth; and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burnt up their city. Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they who were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the high-ways, and as many as ye shall find bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the high-ways, and gathered together all, as many as they found, both bad and good; and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding-garment. And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither, not having a wedding-garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.



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SERMON

Sunday 25th October 2020
T R I N I T Y XX

Shortlisting for the position of Rector is due to take place shortly with interviews set now for early November.

We pray that we may be sent a faithful pastor:

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.

THIS morning we find our gospel reading continuing with St Matthew, but further on from last Sunday, in the ministry of Jesus. Indeed, Jesus has just had that triumphal journey entering Jerusalem to the acclaim of the cheering crowds and is now in the temple teaching and speaking in parables with the chief priests and elders.

Jesus has just told them the parable of the tenants and the landlord's vineyard and now St Matthew records two parables together – that of those invited to the wedding banquet and that of the wedding garment, as we have heard in our gospel reading this morning.

At first glance the stories in the parables do not seem to make much sense on their own unless we look at what they stand for in meaning and considered alongside the previous parable of the landlord's vineyard and tenants. In both parables two parties of servants are sent out and those whom they encounter disregard the servants and their message and are disobedient in the choice of their conduct and kill them. Those are then replaced by other people who take their place.

St Matthew seeks to show that the very essence of this account is the Jewish history

mirrored in the Old Testament where the Jewish people failed to receive the prophets who came proclaiming God and the coming Messiah, failed to listen to them and then killed them in response, and then that of the New Covenant which Christ brought with salvation for all, Gentiles and Jews.

Let us now turn to some of the detail. The king mentioned in the wedding banquet is God and Jerusalem is the city of the king. The kingdom of heaven as being like a wedding banquet is mirrored to that great wedding banquet mentioned in Revelation where all God's people are guests and invited.

The various groups of servant parties sent out to engage with the people are the great prophets who were ignored, disregarded and even killed. So the two linked parables represent Israel, the Jewish peoples' failure to listen to the prophets and to repent and in their response to kill them instead.

The words of the king to his servants 'go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage' are the same words which Jesus, after his resurrection, says to His disciples 'go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost'. The

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, so we pray ...

O GOD, heavenly Father, whose gift it is that the rain doth fall, the earth is fruitful, beasts increase, and fishes do multiply: Behold, we beseech thee, the afflictions of thy people; and grant that the scarcity and dearth, which we do now most justly suffer for our iniquity, may through thy goodness be mercifully turned into cheapness and plenty; for the love of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

directive of the king's servants is that new mission to the Gentiles, and indeed to all, which began with Christ's resurrection.

The second linked parable, that of the wedding garment, continues the theme of the first parable. The king comes in to see the guests but finds one without a wedding garment and excludes him from the wedding banquet. At first consideration it seems this is a separate parable because if all are invited in the first parable why now should one be excluded from the wedding in the second parable?.

The essence and point here moves to focus on what is preparedness for the banquet. Readiness equates with repentance. Preparedness in accepting God's kingdom and His invitation is by way of repentance and acknowledging our failings before God. The wedding garment stands for a new life of good works which is to follow hearing the gospel and repentance.

Amen.

Fr Herbert

Thanks to the generosity of three benefactors, we have acquired an electric piano which will be a wonderful asset.

