

## News and Prayer Update for 20<sup>th</sup> September

### **Rostherne with Bollington, St John High Legh and St Paul Over Tabley**

[www.rosthernewithbollington.co.uk](http://www.rosthernewithbollington.co.uk)  
[www.stjohnshighleggh.org](http://www.stjohnshighleggh.org)  
[www.stpaulsovertabley.co.uk](http://www.stpaulsovertabley.co.uk)

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**Pastoral Worker:** Mr Stewart Jackson Tel: 07835 249 835

**Do You Need to Talk To Someone?** Call any of the above, we have other people who are also experienced in listening who are willing to help, so **please do call, we are here for you.** All conversations are in strict confidence.



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Link for this week's Service: 20th <https://youtu.be/-3Qq3u7w3ak>

**HYMN: Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer** (William Williams 1717 – 1791;  
Music: John Hughes 1872 – 1932)

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer  
pilgrim though this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand;  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more, want no more,  
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through;  
strong deliverer, strong deliverer.  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side;  
songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

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### READINGS FOR 15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

**Psalm:** Psalm 145: 1-8

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my King, ♦  
and bless your name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day will I bless you ♦  
and praise your name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord and highly to be praised; ♦  
his greatness is beyond all searching out.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another ♦  
and declare your mighty acts.
- 5 They shall speak of the majesty of your glory, ♦  
and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts, ♦  
and I will also tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall pour forth the story of your abundant kindness ♦

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and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

- <sup>8</sup> The Lord is gracious and merciful, ♦  
long-suffering and of great goodness.

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### **First Reading:** Philippians 1: 21-end

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.

<sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer.

<sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better;

<sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.

<sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,

<sup>26</sup> so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,

<sup>28</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

<sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well

<sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

### **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 20: 1 – 16

<sup>1</sup> 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard.

<sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place;

<sup>4</sup> and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.

<sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.

<sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?"

<sup>7</sup> They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."

<sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first."

<sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

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<sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.

<sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,

<sup>12</sup> saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."

<sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?"

<sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.

<sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

<sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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### REFLECTION ON THE READINGS Revd Trish Cope

All of you watching will have had experience of being an employee or as an employer taking on and paying staff.

Surely, we all know it makes sense to get paid for the amount of work that you do. There will be those of you who, like me, have been employees and we expect to get paid pro-rata for what we do. When I dropped from full-time work (5 days a week) to part-time 3 days a week – I didn't expect to get paid the same amount – and I didn't – my pay reduced pro-rata. By the same token, when I increased from part-time to full-time I expected to be paid more and I was! Would I have worked for 5 days if I only got paid the same as I was paid for 3 days – Mmmmmm? Perhaps not!

There will be those of you listening who are employers. What do you expect to pay – do you pay those who work longer more and vice versa? I'm sure that you do. I'm sure that you might well think – if I pay part-time staff the same as full time staff I won't be able to get anyone to work full time!

Surely this vineyard owner is a very strange employer.

But remember what we have just heard is not an example of agricultural management or part of an employer's handbook for administration and economics. That is not what Jesus is providing. It is a parable.

You might well wonder why the vineyard owner behaved as he did – surely this wasn't good management and certainly not a good incentive scheme for workers.

**But** this is not a factual account of a real event. This is a parable. Yes – the vineyard owner's actions are odd – by human standards – BUT this vineyard owner represents God and God is odd – his ways are not our ways. As the prophet Isaiah said:

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“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55: 8 – 9)

Let's just remember who Jesus is speaking to.

This parable is addressed to the close company of 12 disciples and would have stayed in the minds of the disciples because it seems so odd. Surely no employer in his right mind would behave like this – paying the same wage whatever the amount of work done, no matter how deserving the workers were. Such an unexpected end would ensure the parable made a memorable impact.

So why does Jesus tell them this parable. The disciples have just asked Jesus what their rewards will be. We have given up a lot to follow you they say – good steady work as fishermen; family businesses; a well remunerated if somewhat dodgy job as a tax-collector.

So Peter asks Jesus, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?’

Jesus sees that they need to learn a lesson; they need to recognise that EVERYONE is equally precious to God; that there's no special reward for hard work or long-service.

No-one is favoured more because of what they do or for how long they do it. The chance to serve God and each other is – like all our blessings – a precious gift.

We all need to learn that God's grace and goodness doesn't work in human ways – God gives despite of what we do / we cannot earn it – we can only be thankful for God's gracious generosity. God's blessing to us isn't diminished because he gives to others – whom we may sometimes see as less-deserving! If we see God's gifts to us as earned by us – we need to think again. God's gifts are not offered according to **our** good service but simply given to us in love. God will never be in our debt because of how much we have served him nor will he come under our direction – acting according to human terms and conditions.

God's ways are not our ways, nor his thoughts our thoughts.

This parable tells us that we need to think less about our rights and entitlement and more about generosity, mercy and goodness.

May we learn the art of cheerful giving – of our service and ourselves – for the sake of your Kingdom.

Teach us, good Lord,  
to serve you as you deserve,  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,

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to labour and not to ask for any reward,  
save that of knowing that we do your will.  
Amen.  
(St Ignatius Loyola)

### **Collect for 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity:**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit  
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:  
grant that your people may be fervent  
in the fellowship of the gospel  
that, always abiding in you,  
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**HYMN: O Jesus, I Have Promised** (John Ernest Bode 1816 – 1874;  
Music James William Elliott 1833 – 1915)

O Jesus I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my friend:  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me:  
the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but Jesus, draw thou nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak and reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

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O Jesus, thou hast promised,  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end:  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks,  
and in them plant mine own;  
my hope to follow duly  
is in thy strength alone:  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
and then heav'n receive me,  
my Saviour and my friend.

### **PRAYER in the coming week:**

This week, we continue the theme of Creationtide and use the words of a well-known song to praise God for his Creation. Whatever other difficulties we meet each day, we can see God's greatness in everything around us and he deserves our praise.

Morning has broken  
Like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken  
Like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing!  
Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing  
Fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall  
Sunlit from Heaven,  
Like the first dewfall  
On the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
Of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness  
Where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight,  
Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light  
Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation,  
Praise every morning,  
God's re-creation  
Of the new day!  
*Eleanor Farjeon (1931)*

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### SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES:

**FACE COVERINGS** – These are now mandatory in places of worship. Please come prepared.

Please inform the clergy if you are exempt from wearing a face covering and do let the service leader know if you lip read.

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September:

09.00 Family Communion at Holy Trinity Little Bollington

10.00 Holy Communion at St John High Legh

10.30 Holy Communion at St Mary Rostherne

#### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September:

10.00 Holy Communion St John High Legh

10.30 Holy Communion St Mary Rostherne

#### Wednesday Mornings

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer at St John High Legh

*We regret that we are unable to open St Paul's just yet because of building work taking place.*

**It is important that no one feels they must come to services if they are reluctant to.**

We stream a service each Sunday which is recorded at St Paul's. Some services from St Mary Rostherne will be live streamed.

### NOTICES

#### ❖ Coffee and Chat Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting every Wednesday morning from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon. Just click on the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88989360564?pwd=TUlmS3ZpeTh2RFIMUXFuak9JTTVVQT09>

If you need the meeting ID and Password please contact Patricia. Email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com or Tel: 01565 830 595

#### ❖ CROZIER SERVICE Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020 3:30pm - Online

Bishop Mark will walk past the Bishop's seat (or Cathedra) and receive the Melanesian Crozier then pray for the city, county and diocese. View live on

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/chestercathedralchoirandorgan](http://www.youtube.com/chestercathedralchoirandorgan)

❖ **HARVEST FESTIVALS Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October** – for all of the United Benefice  
Details to follow. We are organising donations to the local food banks but would also like to support the farming community. Details of both options next week.

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### Join the Prayer Chain:

Our Reader, Chris Stanisstreet has organised a **Prayer Chain** which is done by email and telephone. The idea behind this, is that when a specific prayer request is made, it is passed on by group e-mail to the people on the list who then pray for the particular situation.

If you would like to receive prayer requests or would like to make a prayer request, please let Chris Stanisstreet know:

Tel: 01925 755559; Mob 07918 981 723; [stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk)

### Offering and Fund Raising – Please continue to give if you can

**The best and safest way to give is** by monthly Standing Order or direct payment into the bank account and to do this please contact the Treasurer of the Church you attend for the account details. You may also send a cheque – please contact the relevant Treasurer.

St Mary's Treasurer: Mr Christopher Tetlow Tel: 0161 928 2137

St John's Treasurer: Nick Whimpany Tel: 07905 741969

Holy Trinity Treasurer: Mrs Hilary Girardier: Tel: 01925 754 717

St Paul's Treasurer: Judy Hancock Tel: 01565 733246

*If your income has been adversely affected by the current situation, please do not worry about giving to the Church just now.*

### Homemade Jams For Sale:

There are various Jams and Marmalade available at prices between £2.00 / £3.00 per jar depending on size, either from St Mary's or by telephoning the Vicarage- we will deliver them to you.

St Paul's are offering: Strawberry, Gooseberry, Damson or Strawberry and Gooseberry jams.

St Mary's are offering: Strawberry, Rhubarb & Ginger, Rhubarb Jelly, Redcurrant Jelly, Marmalade. Yellow Raspberry.

### Morning and Night Prayer

*If anyone does not yet have access to the "Worship at Home" booklet containing the Order of Service for Morning Prayer or Night Prayer, please contact the Vicarage, as there are large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out or versions that can be e-mailed.*

### Bible Readings and Psalms for the Coming Week from the Lectionary.

*Here are some suggestions for more Psalms and Bible readings to use with Morning and Night Prayer:*

These readings usually follow on from each other so you get a bit more of the story each day (except on special Saints Days).

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**Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Sept:** Matthew Apostle: Psalm 49:117; 1Kings 19:15-end; 2Timothy 3:14-17

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept:** Psalm 36; 1 Kings 8: 63 - 9: 9; Acts 16: 25-end

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept:** Psalm 34; 1 Kings 10: 1-25; Acts 17: 1-15

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Psalm 37; 1 Kings 11: 1-13; Acts 17: 16-end

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Psalm 31; 1 Kings 11: 26-end; Acts 18: 1-21

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Psalm 42; 1 Kings 12: 1-24; Acts 18: 22 - 19:7

### **Night Prayer from the Day of Pentecost to All Saints Day**

*This Collect can be used at Night Prayer on any day throughout the year.*

Lighten our darkness, Lord we pray,  
and in your great mercy  
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,  
for the love of your only Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Psalms:

Sunday: Psalm 104: 1, 21-33; 134

Monday: Psalm 4

Tuesday: Psalm 143

Wednesday: Psalm 31: 1-5 [19-end]

Thursday: Psalm 16

Friday: Psalm 139: 1-18

Saturday: Psalm 91 (this is the one in the Worship at Home Booklet)