



UNITED BENEFICE OF ATHELNEY

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BENEFICE e-BULLETIN

Week commencing 26th July 2020 THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Lord, how I love your law

CW response to Psalm 119.1

The Revd John Tyler writes ...

Enough material in this Sunday's Reading for twenty sermons! The passage from Paul's Letter to the Romans is the finishing climax of Chapters 5 – 8 (the mostly densely-argued and important section of all his doctrinal writing). It finishes like a trumpet call: Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus!

In the Gospel we have a quick-fire sequence of Jesus' little parables and sayings about the Kingdom. Don't worry if beginnings seem small (the Mustard Seed); the Kingdom has extraordinary power to transform (like Yeast); its priorities overturn everything (the Pearl and the Treasure); in the end all will be sorted out... Finally, we move forward with a blend of what is new and what is old; a message for our Benefice?

Every Blessing, **John.**

Our churches have started to re-open for private prayer: daily 9am to 5pm at North Curry, but restricted to the chancel, keeping the nave for services; St Gregory's choir stalls are open Sundays and Wednesdays 09:30 to 5pm - use the small door opposite the Church Room. The key to Lyng church is available from the churchwardens for anyone wishing to visit.

Public worship continues (but no singing yet) this Sunday at North Curry and Stoke St Gregory with shortened Evening Prayer at 6pm. BCP Holy Communion will be offered at North Curry 8am on 2nd and 16th August, and a Service of the Word at Lyng at 9:30am on Sundays 9th and 23rd August.

We are grateful for John and Martin agreeing to preside at Eucharistic services and will welcome Ralph and Robert back soon.

The Church of England recovery group are continuing to update their advice in light of emerging Government Guidance for places of worship. Risk assessments are being kept under review; ministers and churchwardens are meeting on Wednesday and hope that we will be able to offer more public worship next month.

Looking forward to the harvest, John is planning a Thanksgiving Walk on Saturday 5th September, converging at Burrowbridge church and Burrow mump. Something for your diary.

Overleaf, we continue St Paul's letter to the Church in Rome and the Gospel according to St Matthew. The psalm set for the Principal Service this Sunday is the stanza for the Hebrew letter Phe (פ) from the alphabetical Psalm 119.

NEXT WEEK: 2nd August 8th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

PRAYERS

DEPARTED:

Sadly, **Charles Townshend** (priest) who was Vicar of the Parish of St Peter and St Paul North Curry 1995 to 2007 passed away at the end of last week. We offer condolences to Gill and the family and remember them in our prayers.

YEAR'S MIND – July

Sylvia Dawe, Maurice Derham, Albert Giles, Joyce Gridley, Michele Sutton, Eric Willoughby.

THE SICK OR THOSE IN ANY KIND OF NEED

As we move towards being able to come together again, we thank God for the decline of the virus in this country, and ask for strength to continue our vigilance. We pray for all those who have died, those who are grieving, and those who are still caring for the sick at home, in care and in hospital. We pray also for those parts of the world where people are still falling sick in great numbers.

Also, in our local communities, Alan, Alison, Andrea, Andy, Anne (2), Audrey (2), Barbara, Ben, Bill (2), Brian, David (2), Di, Eileen, Eric, George, Gill, Helen, Janet & family, Jean, John, Joyce, Judith, Kay, Ken, Lisa, Margaret, Mary, Mignon, Norman, Pam, Pat (2), Paul, Portia, Primrose, Ralph, Rita, Stuart, Sue, Susan, Thomas, Victoria ...

and for their families and carers and all those who are in need but not named.

Give thanks for those who have recovered.

If there are people or concerns you would like mentioned in prayer, please tell one of the churchwardens or clergy.

BCP COLLECT for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity

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**

PSALM 119. 129-end PHE *Mirabilia testimonia tua*

129. THY testimonies are wonderful :
therefore doth my soul keep them.
130. When thy word goeth forth : it giveth light and understanding unto the simple.
131. I opened my mouth, and drew in my breath :
for my delight was in thy commandments.
132. O look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me :
as thou usest to do unto those that love thy Name.
133. Order my steps in thy word : and so shall no wickedness have dominion over me.
134. O deliver me from the wrongful dealings of men :
and so shall I keep thy commandments.
135. Shew the light of thy countenance upon thy servant :
and teach me thy statutes.
136. Mine eyes gush out with water :
because men keep not thy law.

FIRST READING: Romans 8. 26-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans
The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will

separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

SECOND READING: Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

