

St Cuthbert's Church: Bulletin for Sunday November 15th

Second Sunday before Advent

In July we produced what we were hoping was to be the last-ever on-line bulletin. Sadly this did not turn out to be the case. So we have decided to produce mini bulletins while the latest lockdown lasts. These will not be as elaborate as the bulletins produced earlier in the year, but there will be the Bible readings for the week, the collects, a short meditation from one of the ministry team, and any other news items or contributions from readers that you may like to send in.

Although places of worship cannot hold services we will be able to open for private prayer. At the moment we will be open on Sunday mornings between 10:30 and 12 and Wednesday mornings between 10 and 11.

The **Church's website** and the **St Cuthbert's Facebook page** are good ways of keeping in touch: links below.

<https://stcuthbertsormesby.org.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/stcuthbertsormesby/>

but if you are reading this from a paper copy and do not have access to the Internet, the following names and phone numbers may prove useful.

Deacon:	Revd. Janet Caldwell	01642 454790
Reader-in-training:	Elizabeth Furnell	01642 293108
Church Warden:	Janet Danks	01642 321347
Church Warden:	Elaine Boyle	077946227152

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Don't forget that there is an online service at 9am every Sunday. Use this link to The C of E's website where you will find this service and also many other helpful items.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Whatever you choose to do, you can find the readings for this Sunday printed below.

The Collect for this Sunday

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
Amen.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing
can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Bible Readings for the Second Sunday before Advent

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”
Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.



Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,

a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward,

bringing five more talents, saying,
I attach one photo of Armistice Day Janet D may have more.

'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

These readings are all from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. (NRSV)

A meditation from our reader-in-training Elizabeth Furnell

Something to think about

Matthew 25 14-30

I have always found this passage a hard parable to understand. At first sight it seems so economically based. Commercialism at its worst. It seems for one landowner to reap where he did not sow must mean that there is another landowner is wondering where his crops have gone! – hardly fair! But this harsh man does not deny the accusation of theft just seems to think this reputation should make his slaves work harder. This is the way of the world of our modern business – not very nice.

But of course, Jesus is not really talking about farmers and their slaves, he is not even talking about money. Is this parable He is talking about the kingdom of God.

It is a strange quirk of English translation that a talent means a gift or skill in English to the Roman world of Jesus' day a talent was an ingot of silver. This ingot was worth about the equivalent of 15years wages of a labourer. That is an awful lot of money even the one talent given to the last slave would have been more money than he had ever seen. Today's equivalent would be a postman winning the lottery. A life changing amount of money. The first two traded the money at risk and gained the

third was afraid and hid the money. He would not know how to deal with such amounts or who to trust.

Elizabeth

Month of Prayer

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and a number of senior church leaders are inviting Christians across the nation to participate in the month of prayer as a second lockdown in England comes into force.

“We call upon the Church of England to make November 2020 a month of prayer for our nation. We know that we are in the faithful hands of the risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles and whose steadfast love endures forever.”

For details again go to the website

<https://www.churchofengland.org/>

The prayer for this coming week

Loving Father God,
be with us in our distress;
be with our families, friends, and neighbours,
our country and our world.
Give health to the sick,
hope to the fearful,
and comfort to mourners.
Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,
insight to our Government,
and patience to us all.
Overcome disease with the power of your new life,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Remembrance Day Ceremony at the War Memorial

This year due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were unable to hold our usual Remembrance Sunday Service. Instead there was a private wreath-laying ceremony at 11am on Wednesday 11th November where representatives from local organisations laid their wreaths. Janet Danks was there to take some photos.

Many thanks to church members who helped out.



Safeguarding

A few words from Denise Lewis, our safeguarding officer.

Please be careful of COVID-19 scams. We are all very hopeful of the COVID-19 vaccine but it will be sometime before this is available. Your doctor will contact you when it is and it will be free. Do not be fooled in to thinking you have to pay for this vaccine.

Also be careful of who you let in to your home. There have been reports of people asking for entry in to your home to check who is there over lockdown. I do not know of any instances in this area but have heard of this happening further south.

Useful telephone numbers
Childline 08001111
NSPCC 08088005000
Women's Aid 08088029999
Samaritans 116123
Mind 03002233393

Stay safe, stay alert.

Denise



Knitted poppies

We are pleased to tell you that £65 has been donated to the British Legion for the sale of knitted poppies. Thanks to the knitters and those who bought them.



Christmas Charity Appeals

Full Details appeared in last week's bulletin and there is also a poster on the Church notice board. This year we are collecting items for the Food Banks and The missions for Seafarers (not shoeboxes because of the virus). Don't forget we are always collecting items for the women's refuge, mainly toiletries.

Boxes are at the back of the church and you can drop off your gifts while the church is open for private prayer or save them up for when (we are hoping) the church reopens for services.

Giving to St. Cuthbert's

Don't forget you can still donate your weekly offerings. Check the church website for details

Cuthbert Bear's Corner



Cuthbert
Bear

The Bible reading for today is from St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 9 verse 35 to chapter 10 verse 8

Find it on page 3 of this bulletin. You could ask a grown up to read it to you if you don't have a children's Bible



The Parable of the Bags of Gold

A man goes on a journey. He leaves money for his servants to look after. To the first servant he gives five bags of gold, to the second, two bags

and to a third one bag.

The first servant puts the money to good use and makes another five bags of gold. The second servant does the same making another two bags of gold. However, the third servant digs a hole and hides the money in the ground.

The man returns, his servants give back the money. He praises the two servants who have made more gold. The servant who hid the money he calls lazy and throws him out of his home.

What does his mean? Jesus was telling his disciples to use their God-given gifts and not hide them away. We might call these gifts abilities or talents.

Activities

1. What do you do when given money, spend it, save it or a bit of both?

2. What are you good at? How do you use and develop your talents?

3. Make a storyboard of the parable.

Denise

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Corny Joke Corner

Seeing all the Christmas decorations going up (and it isn't even Advent yet!) has reminded me of some truly terrible jokes and riddles.

Deacon "Hey Vicar, what's the difference between an elephant and a post-box?"

Vicar "I've no idea"

Deacon "Well you'd better not to post the Church's Christmas cards then."

What did one angel say to the other?

"Halo there."

Sunday school pupil to his mum: "Can I have a budgie for Christmas?"

Mum "No you can have turkey like everyone else"

Contributions wanted!

If you would like to contribute material, write us a letter, or comment on any of the subjects raised in the bulletin, please email it to me at: carolmbruce@yahoo.co.uk
If you read the printed version you can post your contributions to Janet C. or anyone on the PCC and they can forward them to me.

If you know someone who might like to read the bulletin, but hasn't got a computer, would you be able to print one out for them and put it through their letterbox? Or email me at the above address and I will arrange to have one delivered.

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