

THE PARISH OF GREAT YARMOUTH

GREAT YARMOUTH MINSTER, ST PAUL'S, ST MARY'S

SUNDAY 27th September 2020 16th Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Services as follows: Facebook at 10am and 11am in the Minster.

Midweek Eucharist: Wednesday 10.15 (*see notices for venue*)

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The last week has seen a considerable increase in the rate of COVID-19 infections and all of us are increasingly aware that we must continue to be very vigilant in all our dealings. It felt like life was beginning to feel a bit more like it normally does and maybe therein lies the problem: It's at those times people start to feel a bit relaxed and the guard is let down. As a church it is clear we must continue to be vigilant and cautious at all times. We have all watched to see news announcements and consider the consequences for each of us.

Throughout the pandemic, those in authority over us are scrutinised perpetually. The media looks and words which are spoken are reported, re-reported and dissected in detail. Pronouncements and new guidelines draw plenty of criticism but seldom praise. There are plenty of times I find myself wondering why on earth anyone chooses a political career. However, we do need good people in the political life. We need people who are going to dedicate themselves to the communities and people they serve.

Jesus has a meeting with authority in the gospel today. The question to Jesus is asked by those who were in places of human authority: politically and religiously. They come asking if Jesus has authority and he does not respond directly but outwits them. The point being that they may show outward signs of holiness but they don't truly respond when the either the Baptist or even the Son of God are right before their eyes. Those who respond were not those the authorities would have anticipated. Chief Priests and elders of the Temple miss it because to them, authority is about being right and having all the outward signs of that but we know that God knows the heart. The authority of Christ is found in service and so we too are called to acts of loving service.

Fr Simon



NOTICES

Midweek Eucharist: Weds 30th, 10.15am at St. Mary's. 7th October Eucharist at St Paul's.

Footprints is online every Monday at 10am (details below)

Film Club Film club. The first film we will watch will be 'Signs', if anyone would like to borrow a DVD to watch it, and either have a sheet of questions to think about, or join in a discussion early next month, please get in touch with me. If interested email or ring Helen lynch.helen@outlook.com 07902 447821

Lunchtime Recital on Wednesday 30th September at 12.30 with Mike Webb.

Minster Open daily from 10am-12noon for private prayer and visitors. We need helpers to keep the Minster open day by day. If you wish to volunteer please contact the Parish Office.

Online: If you're online you can find the "Parish of Great Yarmouth" on YouTube. We'll also do live streaming on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/GtYarMinster. You don't have to be signed up to Facebook to view these.

Parish Magazine: The October magazine will be out next week, if you have any articles for the magazine please contact Pat Stringer, email: pat.stringer1@sky.com

PARISH PRAYER LIST If anyone wants someone prayed for, ask any of the Ministry Team or the parish office. Pray for those who are sick or in need, all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit or in need of God's loving care: Sheila, Brenda, Pam, Stuart, John, Anthony. Remember before God the recently departed: David Martin, Margaret Pinkney.

COLLECT

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4. 25-end

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

PSALM Psalm 25:1-8

R Remember, Lord, your compassion and love.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to you be put to shame, but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated. **R**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long. **R**

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love. **R**

Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore shall he teach sinners in the way. He will guide the humble in doing right and teach his way to the lowly. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and

every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

