

Reflection for 15th Sunday after Trinity

The story of the casual labourers in the vineyard would today bring about great indignation from the union and an immediate strike! It's not fair, they would say, and it is not! Why should the worker who has only worked for an hour at the end of the day get paid as much as the one who has slaved away all day? Most of us have a great sense of what is fair and feel that life should be fair.

But Jesus starts his story using those words with which he so often prefaced his stories, 'The Kingdom of heaven is like...' The values of the world and the Kingdom of heaven are so very different. The businessman would pay each worker according to the work they had actually done, at so much an hour or so much a per basket of grapes picked. But these were people on the bread line, the 'day's wage' would have been a bare subsistence wage. Would not God pay them all the same amount however long they had worked? What does this story tell us about God? Does he only love us as we deserve? Does He only give to us as we deserve or does He give to us as we need? God's love for us is unconditional. Where would we be if he only loved each of us as we deserved? God's love is fairer than fair! He loves us all the same, regardless.

THIS PARABLE BUGS ME.
THE FIRST GUYS GET
TOTALLY RIPPED OFF!



YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU
THINK ABOUT ALL THE
PEOPLE JESUS CALLED,
YOU AND I HAVE COME
LATE IN THE DAY.



I LOVE
THIS PARABLE!



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 9th August to the end of September:

Meeting ID: 831 9054 0514

Passcode: 090608

Telephone numbers: 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 27.09.20 Trinity 16

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom & 12 noon Mass in Church

READINGS



OT Ezekiel 18: 1-4,25-32

NT Philippians 2: 1-13

Gospel Matthew 21: 23-32

CONTACT US

Fr. David Nixon 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays
rev.dave@virgin.net

Revd Sarah Cumming Curate 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

Revd. Alison Whiting Associate Priest
rev.alisonwhiting@gmail.com

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Ward 01392 848674
07961621001 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Thurs mornings (suspended)



St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 20th September 2020

Trinity 15

I'm trying to shift us away here from Covid admin to a focus on saints and other holy people: the feast of **St Matthew**, Apostle & Evangelist is on 21 September. Remember that Matthew's Gospel is neither the first gospel written nor the earliest NT account, and that it is likely he was writing for a community of Jewish Christians.

Advance warning of APCM by Zoom on 18 October. We will be having worship as usual but at 10 o'clock, followed by a very brief Annual Meeting. Papers will be sent in advance, with reports to be read in advance. We will cover only what is needed to keep us lawful!

Happy news: All being well, **Revd Sarah** will be ordained priest by Bishop Robert on Saturday 26th September in the cathedral. Due to the current regulations, tickets for this event are severely limited. On Tuesday 29th September at 7pm, Sarah will preside at the **Eucharist for the first time**. Once again, numbers are very restricted. If you would like to attend this event, please speak to David or Sarah.

Fr David



Collect

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. **Amen**

Jonah 3: 10, 4: 1-11

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.' But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

Philippians 1: 25-end

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I

do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 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, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. 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, 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. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20: 1-16

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 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?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." 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." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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." 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? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what be-

longs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Post Communion

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder

From 13th September the Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon **not** Thursdays. Please continue to be generous.

Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Unfortunately we will not be holding a Coffee Morning due to the Covid pandemic. They are desperate for funds so a collection box will be in Church for the next 3 weeks if you wish to support them. Thanks. Pat Metford.

Knit and Natter September 2020

Now autumn has arrived we shall be meeting for the remaining Thursdays of the month of September in the Parish Church Hall, at the usual time of 10.30 until about midday. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725

