

POCKLINGTON GROUP OF CHURCHES

Burnby, St Giles; Givendale, St Ethelburga; Hayton, St Martin; Huggate, St Mary;
Londesborough, All Saints; Millington, St Margaret; Nunburnholme, St James;
Pocklington, All Saints; Shiptonthorpe, All Saints

www.pocklingtongroupofchurches.org

www.pocklingtonchurchfriends.org.uk

THE BULLETIN

Sunday 10 September, Trinity 13

Collect

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

(or)

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ezekiel 33:7-11

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel;
whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them

warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you shall surely die', and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

God's Justice and Mercy

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Romans 13:8-end: Love for One Another

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

An Urgent Appeal

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15-20: Reproving Another Who Sins

'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

**The Readings for 17 September, Trinity 14, are
Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35**

British families go without food *by Rodney Nicholson*

IT was Christmas Eve. Laura went to the bank to withdraw her benefit money for the following day's food but found her account empty. Someone had told the office, wrongly, that her ex-partner was supporting her, and the Job Centre had sanctioned her by stopping her benefits for six weeks. Her family ate "beefburgers" for Christmas dinner, but without the beef – just a plain roll. Amy miscarried her third child in the school playground and was rushed to hospital, forcing her to miss her Job Centre appointment. She was similarly sanctioned and her payments stopped. Jack had his benefits stopped because allegedly he failed to keep a Job Centre appointment. When he insisted that he had never received the letter, the staff looked into it and found that they had sent it to a wrong address. It was their fault but Jack still had his money stopped.

Incidents like these are happening regularly in 21st century Britain. These particular examples were given by Alison Wroe, a director of the highly respected Trussell Trust, in a powerful and well-informed talk which she gave at the Greenbelt Festival a fortnight ago. I go there every year to be stimulated and refreshed. But I have heard and read of similar stories from other people. Job Centre staff are not hard-hearted people but they have strict rules to follow, which have become tougher in recent years.

There is, however, good news. Government ministers have now indicated that they will come out to meet a sample of claimants whose benefits have been unjustly stopped, and listen to their stories. Thousands go hungry in Britain. Many benefit claimants hold two or three jobs, but their income still falls well behind their unavoidable expenses. Some pupils in a Birkenhead primary school were crying as 3.30pm approached because they were returning to a cold, dark home with little food. School holidays means hunger for many children.

Last year the Trussell Trust, through its 1300 food banks, gave out 1.2 million emergency supplies – food for three days – with an estimated one third of these going to children. Very few clients are “scroungers”. Many are ashamed to be there and will return with a gift of food or clothes when they can. In the Acts of the Apostles the first Christians cared for widows and orphans. Today’s equivalents visit the food banks.

Post-Communion Prayer

**God our creator,
you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place
where hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**