

# 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](http://www.pocklingtongroupofchurches.org)

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## THE BULLETIN - READINGS

**Sunday 15 October, Trinity 18**

### **Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is before,  
we may run the way of your commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
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.

*(or)*

God, our judge and saviour,  
teach us to be open to your truth  
and to trust in your love,  
that we may live each day  
with confidence in the salvation which is given  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Isaiah 25:1-9: Praise for Deliverance from Oppression**

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
for you have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin;  
the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.  
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;

cities of ruthless nations will fear you.  
For you have been a refuge to the poor,  
a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.  
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,  
the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,  
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;  
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a  
feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled  
with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.  
And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over  
all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
he will swallow up death for ever.  
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all  
the earth, for the LORD has spoken.  
It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might  
save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

### **Philippians 4:1-9**

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my  
joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.  
I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the  
Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these  
women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the  
gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers,  
whose names are in the book of life.  
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your  
gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not  
worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and  
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known

to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

### **Matthew 22:1-14: The Parable of the Wedding Banquet**

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

**Readings for 22 October, Bible Sunday and Confirmation, are  
Isaiah 45:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22**

## **Anxiously stepping forward** *by Rodney Nicholson*

LEAVING York station last Monday morning, I noticed a border collie and its young female owner walking into the building. The dog was panting a little – a sign of anxiety – but, assuming they were catching a train, would hopefully soon settle down at his or her owner’s feet. I thought about how the dog would be more familiar with fields and the countryside but was now facing unfamiliar sights and sounds and no doubt wondering what lay ahead.

This border collie, I imagine, had nothing to worry about. Rather differently, a small group of farm horses, waiting patiently in the middle of South Cave in 1914, had plenty to disturb them. They were pictured in a book of old photographs of East Yorkshire scenes, which I borrowed once from the library. The peaceful creatures were off to the “war to end wars” and, if only they knew it, faced being blown to pieces on the battlefields of France or Belgium. Animals so often pay the price of human sin and conflict.

Unfamiliarity can be frightening: a child’s first day at school, a patient being taken to their hospital bed, an employee’s introduction to their new job, an elderly person being led into a care home where they may well spend the rest of their life. Blessed are those who give reassurance and welcome to a newcomer. They have the spirit of Christ, whether they know it or not. One day we shall “tread the verge of Jordan” as we face our own death, uncertain of exactly what lies ahead, but able to surrender ourselves into the hands of the One who has loved us since the word began. When family members are able to be with their loved one as they leave their earthly body behind, they may well look back with gratitude at being given the opportunity to say farewell for now.

Millions of displaced people across the world face constant uncertainty and rejection. The half-a-million Rohingya refugees from Burma can expect a miserable life in the makeshift camps of Bangladesh. We hope the current Christian Aid appeal is successful but it will not exactly bring a life of bliss to these people suffering through no fault of their own. Likewise, the African refugees languishing in Libya’s detention centres endure a living hell. Let us remember all the weak who are at the mercy of the strong.