

POCKLINGTON GROUP OF CHURCHES

Burnby, St Giles; Givendale, St Ethelburga; Hayton, St Martin; Huggate, St Mary;
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THE BULLETIN

Sunday 16 July, Trinity 5

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

(or)

Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Romans 8:1-11: Life in the Spirit

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law - indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23: The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a

boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

The Parable of the Sower Explained

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

**The Readings for 23 July, Trinity 6, are
Isaiah 44:6-8; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43**

"Not everyone can afford it" by Rodney Nicholson

MANY enjoyable events take place around here. This month, for example, Kathleen and I, or I by myself, will have been to two brass band concerts at Burnby Hall, a Weighton Waytes choir event at Aughton, a Flanders and Swan evening at Pocklington, a musical

event at Beswick, and more besides. If you go to everything you could have a whale of a time and also spend a lot of money, especially if food and drink are involved. To some this is no problem, but others have to be more careful.

Here lies a point. There's plenty of money in these parts – look at the spending in a retail park or at York races (not that I've been to either) – and the Church, in general, should not sell its merchandise too cheaply. The Church also needs to remind its members to give gladly and freely, as giving to God. The fact that York diocese comes 30th out of 42 in the diocesan league table of parish giving (whereas Sheffield is 4th) gives no grounds for celebration. At the same time, churches need to be sensitive to any members who may be struggling. I think of a professional woman – not in this benefice – whose low income makes paying the bills difficult. Such people usually hide their need.

The Children's Society did a survey four years ago of the hidden cost of schooling. Nearly a third of parents questioned admitted that they had struggled at some point to pay for elements of their children's education. It might be the cost of sportswear or school trips or items required for their child's course, such as a carrying-bag for artwork. The survey also found that children avoid asking their parents for help when they know that money is tight.

The same principle can apply to families in church. To give one example, the East Riding of Yorkshire is mercifully free from a tradition which afflicted many churches in Lancashire: that of the Rose Queen. One year our daughter was chosen for the Rose Queen's retinue. The Rose Queen's mother had high ambitions for her daughter's sartorial splendour, which required us and other retinue members to pay £83 – an absurd amount, Kathleen thought, for a piece of fancy dress.

It's good to have fun and be generous but not at the cost of laying financial burdens.