

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

SUNDAY READINGS

22 September, Trinity 14

Collect

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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)

Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy
and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Proverbs 3:13-18: The True Wealth

Happy are those who find wisdom,
and those who get understanding,

for her income is better than silver,
and her revenue better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honour.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called happy.

2 Corinthians 4:1-6: Treasure in Clay Jars

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 9:9-19: The Calling of Matthew

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire

mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’

The Question about Fasting

Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, ‘Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘The wedding-guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.’

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, ‘My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.’ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples.

**Readings for 29 September, Trinity 15, are:
Amos 6:1a,4-7; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16.19-end**

A “foul stain” on Manchester *by Rodney Nicholson*

Two hundred years ago last month a violent and unjust event happened in Manchester which would affect the city for years to come: the Peterloo Massacre. 60,000 people marched into St Peter’s Field in the town centre to press for Manchester and its surrounding area to be represented in Parliament. Very quickly the nine magistrates, including two clergymen, ordered the troops to be brought in. Eighteen died and several hundred were injured as the military wielded their swords.

Official versions of the morning exonerated the militia, but their story did not stick. The Times newspaper, for example, immediately cast doubt on the official report. Similarly the Revd Edward Stanley, vicar of Alderley, who later became Bishop of Norwich, witnessing the proceedings, said that people tried to escape but they lay bleeding on the ground from the drunken soldiers' attack. There was no riot at all, he asserted.

Elizabeth Gaunt received such cruel treatment that she later petitioned Parliament. She was dragged from her hackney carriage, beaten, trampled upon, then put in solitary confinement. Charged with high treason she was later released without any apology. Though pregnant she was refused medical aid and lost her baby. Her petition to Parliament called that day "a foul stain upon our national character". She requested an enquiry and the bringing to justice of those who had acted unlawfully.

It was dubbed Peterloo because it happened only three years after the battle of Waterloo. The authorities feared revolution in England, as had happened in France. In fact the churches played no small part in Peterloo. Many Methodists and other Nonconformists were educating working class people and encouraging them to think for themselves. Indeed the demonstrators sang hymns on their way into Manchester that morning. Such had not been the case in France.

The massacre led to welcome changes. Within five years the chemist John Dalton and others set up the Mechanics Institute, to teach science to working men – the forerunner of Manchester University. In 1828 the Ancoats Dispensary began to tackle the injuries and diseases of the industrial poor. Later the trades unions and co-operative movements came about. The Pankhurst sisters in Manchester began their campaign for women's votes. The "foul stain" led to many examples of civic pride and social justice. Today there are strong bonds between the Cathedral and the city, which has many lively churches. All part of God's kingdom.