

The Pew News

Sunday 4th October 2020

17th Sunday after Trinity

Dear friends,

Jesus lays out a parable for the pharisees. A landowner plants a vineyard and then sends first his slaves to collect the produce and then his son who is killed. Then Jesus shifts from storytelling and he asks “What do you think will happen when the owner comes back?”

And the Pharisees give him the answer that makes sense to them- and frankly, makes a lot of sense to us too... “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

And you expect Jesus to say “YES! That’s exactly what happens!” But he doesn’t. Instead, Jesus says, haven’t you read that part in the scriptures where it says: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? It’s a quote from psalm 118. The stone the builders rejected... the son is rejected but God doesn't exact vengeance- God doles out mercy. God doesn't smite and kill and give what the wicked tenants deserve- God gives love. Through the death of his son, God will give eternal life. God doesn't act like you Pharisees are telling people God will act if they don't fall in line. God doesn't act like you or I would act when people hurt or reject us... God acts like God.

Jesus is saying, it’s not up to us to be judge and jury for other people. It’s not up to us to decide who gets forgiven and who doesn’t or make up your own interpretation on the laws and limits of God’s love. God planted the field, God set up the fence, God knows the boundaries... not us (thank God!). Yet ... when we see a behaviour we’ve deemed “wrong” we want folks punished, especially when we’ve been hurt.

Except God’s ways are not our ways... God loves and forgives and cares for all of us beyond our reason... and because of our reluctance to embrace that... we miss out.

Services this week

4th October

9am Holy Communion - Charlton Horethorne

10.30am Harvest Service - Milborne Port.

(Please bring non-perishable items for the food bank)

3pm Harvest Service -

(meet at the church at 3pm for a harvest thanksgiving. Bring umbrella and walking shoes as numbers mean we cannot meet inside)

Services next week

9am Holy communion - Goathill

10.30am Holy communion - Milborne Port

6pm Evensong followed by short APCM Charlton Horethorne

Collect

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their
rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to
yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
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.

New Testament Reading

Philippians 3.4b–14

⁴ even though I, too, have reason for
confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in
the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the
eighth day, a member of the people of Israel,
of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of
Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to
zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to
righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come
to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More
than that, I regard everything as loss because
of the surpassing value of knowing Christ
Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered
the loss of all things, and I regard them as
rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and
be found in him, not having a righteousness
of my own that comes from the law, but one
that comes through faith in Christ, the
righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I
want to know Christ and the power of his
resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings
by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if
somehow I may attain the resurrection from
the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or
have already reached the goal; but I press on
to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has
made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not
consider that I have made it my own; but this
one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind
and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I
press on towards the goal for the prize of the
heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21.33–end

³³ ‘Listen to another parable. There was a
landowner who planted a vineyard, put a
fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and
built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to
tenants and went to another country. ³⁴ When
the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves
to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the
tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed
another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent
other slaves, more than the first; and they
treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he
sent his son to them, saying, “They will
respect my son.” ³⁸ But when the tenants saw
the son, they said to themselves, “This is the
heir; come, let us kill him and get his
inheritance.” ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him
out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now
when the owner of the vineyard comes, what
will he do to those tenants?’ ⁴¹ They said to
him, ‘He will put those wretches to a
miserable death, and lease the vineyard to
other tenants who will give him the produce
at the harvest time.’

⁴² Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in
the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes”?

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will
be taken away from you and given to a people
that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴
The one who falls on this stone will be broken
to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it
falls.’

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees
heard his parables, they realized that he was
speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest
him, but they feared the crowds, because they
regarded him as a prophet.

Charlton Horethorne APCM

The APCM postponed from April will be held in church on Sunday 4th October after a shortened Evensong. We will review 2019 and present the accounts and elect our PCC. If you are on Charlton Horethorne's church electoral roll you are entitled to vote.

Apologies to Charlie or Sarah please
Should current restriction tighten we will hold the APCM on line.

Harvest Services

At all our harvest Services across the benefice we will be thanking our farmers for everything they do for us especially throughout this difficult year. Please bring non-perishable items. These will be quarantined for 72 hours and then taken to Yeovil and Sherborne food banks. A list of what is needed is on the Lord's Larder website <https://ycstyeovil.org.uk/harvest-information/>

Harvest at Milborne Wick

Please note the change of time to 3pm. Due to COVID social distancing restrictions we cannot fit many people into the church. Instead we will meet at church at 3pm, walk up the stream to the duck pond via the mill, back to the Sprakes and then the church yard. We will thank God for our farmers and ask his blessing on the village of Milborne wick.

Please bring a brolly and walking shoes. The 'service will last about 30 minutes.

Harvest at Stowell

A huge thank you to the farmers at Stowell who donated goods representing their farms.

Andy Clarke sends his milk to Wyke Farm so we had cheese and butter from there. Mark Hansford sent a joint of beef. The Kingmans send their milk to the Co-op via Muller Dairy. The Moore farm send their milk for Barber cheese. We also had sausages from Roy Kingman, eggs from Gemma Kingman, honey from the Jeans and produce from peoples gardens. At the end of the service we auctioned off the produce and over £50 will be sent to help the local food bank.





The Goathill Virtual Duck Race

Log on to:

Milborne Port Churches Together

YouTube / Facebook

and have fun watching the Races

Saturday 3rd October

The money raised will help pay for the Architects Fees (Quinquennial Church Inspection) and some of the repair work which needs to be carried out at St Peter's Church, Goathill as a result of this Inspection Report.

Thank you all again. Goathill PCC.