



Trusthorpe PCC meets on Tuesday 8th September at 10.30am. Please pray for our discussions and decisions.

We have a Prayer Lunch on Tuesday 8th at 12.15pm at 12 Hillside Avenue, Sutton on Sea (please let Chris or Liz know if you're coming, 440039); and a Service of Healing and Wholeness on Wednesday 9th at 7.00pm at St. Andrew's, Anderby. All welcome at both!



SEPTEMBER 6TH – THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY A REFLECTION BY THE RECTOR, REV PETER LILEY.

Do you know, I sometimes wonder whether people realise what GOOD NEWS the Christian gospel message is! Indeed, the very word “gospel” means “good news”.

Ezekiel's good news is that when God's people (then and now) turn from their evil ways they will live. In Ezekiel's time (with conquest and exile looming) this was a promise that if they were faithful, they would one day return. In our day it becomes the promise that Jesus brings forgiveness of our sin and guilt (through his sacrificial death) and opens the way to eternal life (through his Resurrection) – when we repent (turn away from evil) and trust our lives into God's hands.

St. Paul calls this, “Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ,” rather as one might get dressed each day, laying aside all that is associated with darkness and instead focussing on the Light of the World.

Jesus, albeit at the end of a piece of teaching about discipline within the Church he was to go on and establish, ends with a promise which encapsulates the gospel, drawing in Ezekiel's hope and Paul's challenge: “Where two or three of you gather in my name, I am there with you!”

That's GOOD NEWS indeed! We can be forgiven. We can live forever in God's eternal Kingdom. We can ‘wear’ Jesus each day to protect ourselves from darkness. When we gather in his name, Jesus is among us.

Surely we can't keep this to ourselves! Over the coming weeks we are offering three exciting opportunities to invite others to come and hear the gospel, worship God with us and learn more of – and grow in – the Christian faith:



On Sunday 27th September we are joining other Churches across the country in keeping “BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY” – an day to invite friends and neighbours to come and “try out” our Churches. We shall have well-known hymns and only a short talk!



On Sunday 4th October BISHOP JEAN BURGESS, the new Bishop of Grimsby is coming to take our service and meet us – 11.00am at St. Mary's Mablethorpe followed by a bring-and-share lunch (NB. there will be no services that day at our other Churches).



And through October and November we shall be holding a “40 Day Bible Reading Project” using a special booklet with readings, meditations and prayers to show us more of what the Bible says and help us understand it – there will be optional weekly discussion groups as well, where we can share what we've learned and ask questions.

Please join in these activities and events and celebrate and share the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ.

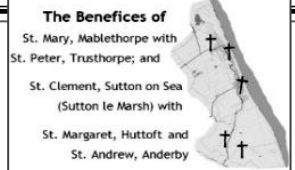
Please pray: in thanks for what Jesus has done for us, and for courage to offer the good news to others; and for all who work in health-care, in our hospitals, surgeries, treatment-centres, pharmacies and in the community, especially when they have to make difficult decisions.

Parish Website: <http://lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk/mablethorpesutton>

Parish Office: Jen on 01507 464855 or office@alfordgroup.org.uk (Tuesday and Friday 11.30am-1.30pm)

Rev Peter Liley 443948, rev.p.liley@btinternet.com & Canon Chris Lilley 440039, c.lilley@btinternet.com

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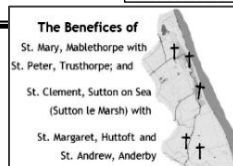


SUNDAY 27TH IS "BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY!" Please invite friends, neighbours and family members to join us at our services on September 27th. There will be familiar hymns (harvest hymns in some cases) and a short talk and refreshments will be served after the service.

Coming Soon: **Our "40 Day Bible Reading Project!"** A passage of Scripture, a meditation and a prayer for each day, plus an optional weekly discussion group to share what we learn and ask questions. More details are in *The Messenger* with this Notice Sheet.



SEPTEMBER 13TH – THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY A REFLECTION BY CHRISTINE COLLINS (READER)



The reading from Genesis and the reading from Matthew seem to be a good illustration of what is right and what is wrong when we pray: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us".

In Matthew, Peter wants to know how many times he must carry on forgiving a member of the church if they perpetually sin against him – he is prepared to forgive them seven times. Oh no! Jesus tells him; he should forgive this person 490 times – you'd lose count long before you got that far! What Jesus seems to be saying is there is no limit, just go on forgiving every time it happens. Jesus illustrates this with his parable of the king whose slave could not pay him what he owed and when threatened with dreadful punishment, pleaded with the king to be patient and he would pay him everything. The king took pity on him and forgave him everything, the debt was cancelled, wiped out, the slate was clean. That slave then goes and tries to do exactly the same as the king and demand the repayment of a much smaller debt, owed him by a fellow slave. When the fellow slave pleaded for patience the slave refused to forgive him and threw him into prison. The king shows no mercy when he finds out how that first slave has acted, after being forgiven for a much larger debt.

Jesus expects us to always be honestly forgiving when others wrong us – we have been forgiven so much ourselves by our heavenly Father. Hence the sentence in the Lord's prayer, "forgive us ... as we forgive those who trespass against us".

In Genesis, Joseph's brothers plead with him to forgive them for the awful way they had treated him, leaving him to die, tied up in an empty well. They are still deceitful – they planned this scene by pretending their father Jacob, on his deathbed, had told them to tell Joseph, to beg Joseph, to forgive these brothers for their crime and wrong doing, weeping to show their remorse – such good play-acting! Does Joseph recognise the deception? We don't know! What we do know is that he wept and forgave them unconditionally, promising to provide for them all and their families. He humbly admits that it is not his place to condemn them and, in spite of everything, God has turned a bad situation into something amazingly good – look how many thousands of people had been helped since Joseph had risen to a position of authority in Egypt. I am reminded of Paul's testimony to the Christians in Rome, that in spite of everything he had been through he can say:

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God,
who are called according to his purpose," (Romans 8:28).

So let's not just say those words in the Lord's prayer, let's put them into action!

Please prayerfully consider joining in our 40 Day Bible Reading Project and, perhaps, offering it to others; and remember all effected by the recent earthquakes across the world.

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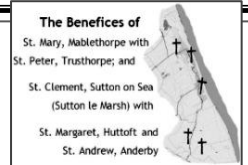


NEXT SUNDAY IS "BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY!" Please invite friends, neighbours and family members to join us at our services on September 27th. There will be familiar hymns (harvest hymns in some cases) and a short talk and refreshments will be served after the service.

And, please remember that Bishop Jean is with us on Sunday 4th October, a United Group Service at 11.00am at St. Mary's Mablethorpe followed by a bring-and-share lunch. There won't be any services at our other Churches on October 4th.



**SEPTEMBER 20TH – THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
A REFLECTION BY CANON CHRIS LILLEY (AREA DEAN)**



The parable of the workers in the vineyard arouses very different responses from different people. "It's not fair to me" cries the man who had worked all day in the heat. "Why was so owner so generous to me?" wonders the man who had worked just one hour.

If we equate the owner of the vineyard with God our Father, he is fair to everyone and surprisingly generous to those who were last. It would be easy to get lost in the story and wonder where these extra people were until they finally turned up looking for work part way through the day.

Looking at the heavenly meaning beyond the earthly story we can understand that we can all enjoy the benefits of eternal life even if we have come to Christ late on in life. Famously Saint Augustine of Hippo said, "Lord make me chaste, but not yet!" I can imagine that such an approach might have been turned into a "Carry On" film – maybe called "Carry on Sinning!" But I would not recommend this approach! We never know whether we might die suddenly and not have that opportunity to take that step of faith.

St Paul might help us here – he often does! As an old man and carrying the scars of many physical attacks, Paul says something very powerful: "For me to live is Christ, to die is gain" (Philippians 1.21). Paul is ready and wanting to go to God, but he acknowledges that God might not have finished with him yet. As long as he has breath in his body, Paul will "gossip the Gospel" and keep on keeping on.

I hope that I can say and live that. There is a song (by Keith White) I learned as a teenager that says it better than I can. It starts with the chorus:

*For me to live is Christ, to die is gain,
To hold his hand, and walk his narrow way
There is no peace, no joy, no thrill,
Like walking in his will,
For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.*

Now once my heart was full of sin and shame
'Till someone told me Jesus came to save,
When he said, "Come home to me"
He set my poor heart free:
For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.

Now there are things that I still do not know
But of this one thing I'm completely sure:
He who called me on that day,
Washed all my sins away:
For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.

Please pray: for all who will be invited to come (back) to Church next weekend and for the services we host; and for grace to agree with St. Paul: "For me to live is Christ, to die is gain."

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