

Stainton, Hilton and Brookfield parishes

## 16th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

27th September 2020

**WELCOME-** The Collect and readings below will be used at the Service Of Morning Prayer at Stainton at 11am

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

**Promises can never take the place of performance. Fine words are never a substitute for fine deeds.**

### **COLLECT**

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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.

### **The book of the prophet Ezekiel.**

Ch 18.1-4, 25-32

*God keeps speaking to his people through the prophets to urge them to look seriously at the consequences of wrong choices and the joyful hope of right ones*

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of

the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

### **The letter of Paul to the Philippians.**

ch2.1-13

*Paul is writing from prison calling the Philippian Christians to be fully united with each other so that they can gain strength from one another. He wants*

*them to focus on loving and serving one another—just as Christ lived to serve others and he wants to hear about it.*

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

## **The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

Ch 21.23-32

*The Jewish leaders were the ones who said they would obey God and then did not. People who were despised by them as sinners, who had chosen to go their own way but in the end took God's way were commended.*

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven," he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?"

But if we say, "Of human origin," we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.'

Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'

### **PRAYERS**

Ask God our creator in his mercy to inspire us to want to do his will .

Pray for those parts of the world where misery and the tragedy of wrong choices grieves God's heart of love.

Pray for our Queen and her Government asking guidance for them in the difficult days ahead.

Bring to mind all people in any kind of difficulty; financial, health, relationships. Ask God's strength and comfort for them.

Pray for all hospital staff and carers as they gear up to face another challenge of COVID19.

Pray for children and young people returning to school or college and the Staff who will teach them.

Pray for new-borns, new parents and grandparents. Pray for elderly friends

Give thanks for all the good gifts of God's grace. Love, peace, health, homes and families.

JOIN WITH CHRISTIANS EVERYWHERE IN  
SAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER

Through Jesus working within us, God promises to teach us to make good choices. We are never too old, too set in our ways, or too busy to take God up on his offer of 'live-in' help.

**HARVEST CELEBRATION NEXT SUNDAY 11am AT STAINTON CHURCH with Archdeacon Amanda Bloor. Gifts of goods for the Food Bank will be gratefully received.**

*From the MU collection of Prayers "' Dear Lord..." Prayer from the Republic of Korea*

Lord with your love you have created a beautiful world filled with your gifts. Help us to live in balance rather than in conflict, to appreciate the many blessings of this life and to treat the natural world with respect. In Jesus name we pray.

### **CHURCH WARDENS AT STAINTON**

Vernon Clare 01642 592186

Colin Mason Tel: 01642 591667

### **CHURCH WARDENS AT HILTON**

Barbara Sowerby 01642 591532

Sally Hamlin 01642 590385

If a priest is needed urgently please contact the Area Dean  
Revd Clay Roundtree Tel 01642 760171