

I will be continuing Diane's schedule of live daily worship on Facebook (9.30am, 12noon and 5pm, Monday to Thursday) and a Sunday service at 10.30am. Diane also works closely with local schools and leads a weekly Zoom bible study, and I will be providing pastoral support, looking at the opening of their buildings, and taking funerals.

All this means that I won't be available in the Benefice. However, I am planning on working with our teams to bring Messy Church, All Saints All Stars and Dads Club as planned during June and July. In the meantime you will all be in my prayers and I look forward to sharing with you all I learn in the eight weeks I am 'away'.

Blessings.

Bob

Elmete Trinity Benefice

The websites of the member churches can be found at:

All Saints' Church, Barwick www.barwickcofechurch.co.uk/
St Peter's Church, Thorner www.thornerchurch.org.uk/
St Philip's Church, Scholes www.stphilips-scholes.org

Online services

Sunday services and daily reflections are posted on the benefice YouTube channel at <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UC2ID3lKlfajisVxxttTBJlg>

Email elmettrinitypa@gmail.com to receive notifications when new material is posted online.

Telephone services

At 10am on Sundays (c.30 mins) and Wednesdays (c.15 mins), there is a dial-in prayer service led by Alan Stanley. To join these calls:

- from a landline, dial 0330 336 0036; or from a UK mobile dial 8 7373 (or from an O2 mobile, dial 98 7373).
- when prompted, enter the group PIN 716 416 and then record your name and the conference call can begin.

(NB Charges are: landlines – your phone provider's local rate for your contract (which may be free if you have free phone calls); mobiles 12.5p/min. + VAT.)

Call Alan on 0113 281 2769 if you need help.



All Saints'
at the heart of the
community



Sunday 14th June
Trinity 1

Readings for Trinity 1

Romans 5:1-8 and Matthew 9:35 to 10:8

Collect

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of
love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

Post Communion

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion
strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen

Matthew 9.35 – 10.8

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

¹⁰ Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his

brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near."⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment

Two Contrasts?

What, I wonder, strikes you as you read through this passage. There are so many words and phrases we could pause over. Two striking contrasts struck me. Jesus had compassion on whole crowds of people, contrasts with him speaking personally to just twelve named people. Jesus speaking about a plentiful harvest, contrasts with his restricting the harvest field to just the 'lost sheep of the house of Israel'.

I remember a former vicar of Manston pointing out to me how often we overlook the crowds in Jesus ministry. He felt that we have a tendency to think that God's main interest is in church people and we overlook the crowds of people who don't come to church. I don't know if he was right or not, you will know what you think. Here Jesus is certainly as interested in the crowd as he is in his close followers. He had compassion on the crowd because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Compassion has a sense of showing kindness, being caring and willing to help others. It is a word for a very positive emotion that has to do with being thoughtful. When you have compassion, you are putting yourself in someone else's shoes and really feeling for them. The good shepherd shows all of that towards his sheep. That is how Jesus felt about the crowd. It is how he feels about you and me today. He knows each of us by name and his compassion is there for us and for the crowds of people whose names we don't know.

The second contrast that struck me is the one between the ripe harvest fields and the instruction of Jesus to the twelve just to go to the 'lost sheep of the house of Israel'. That seems almost to contradict Jesus having compassion on everyone. Until one particular penny drops with us. It is a penny that had not dropped with the people of Israel for centuries before Jesus came, so we may be excused for not seeing it immediately. The tribe of Israel was originally chosen for a very special and holy task. Over time though the struggle for their own existence took over from everything else. By sending the twelve disciples to the house of Israel first, Jesus is reminding them of the main reason God chose them. This was to be a blessing to the whole world, not just their own kind. They were to do this by embodying God's love and compassion for all of his creation. Makes you wonder about the main reason God called the church into existence, doesn't it?

Perhaps my contrasts are not really contrasts, perhaps they are complementary ideas. What do you think?

Alan Stanley

A message from Bob

We had planned for me to be on secondment during May, June and July. The main purpose was to stretch my learning and to provide cover for the Revd Diane Flynn in Swillington who is in need of an operation. Her op coincided with Kippax being in a vacancy.

With her op cancelled due to Coronavirus, we felt it sensible that I stayed put. The lifting of restrictions has meant that Diane's operation could be rescheduled for June 17th. With her need to stay in isolation, Bishop Paul has asked if I could help at Kippax, Swillington and Allerton-by-Water with immediate effect until the end of July. Obviously this is not a normal situation as all worship is online.