

27th September 2020

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity



It is now compulsory to wear face coverings in church, unless you are unable to do so because of a health condition. They should only be removed for receiving communion or for doing a reading or leading intercessions.

Services week beginning 27 September

Sunday 27th September 2020

10 am Eucharist St Michael's, Bishop Middleham ()
11.30 am Eucharist, St Alban's, Trimdon Grange (The Revd. Elizabeth Bland)
6 pm Meditation St Mary Magdalene's

Tuesday 29 September

6 pm Eucharist St Mary Magdalene's, Trimdon Village (The Revd. Malcolm Masterman)

Wednesday 30 September

10 am Eucharist St Edmund's, Sedgfield (The Revd. Elizabeth Bland)

Zoom Services

Morning Worship on Zoom 10.00am on Sunday
Weekly Meditation on Zoom: 10.00am Wednesday

Church Services week beginning 4th October

Sunday 4th October 2020

8am Eucharist St Edmund's Sedgfield (The Revd Elizabeth Bland)
10 am Eucharist St Edmund's, Sedgfield (The Revd Malcolm Masterman)
10 am Eucharist St Mary Magdalene's, Trimdon Village (The Revd. Peter Robson)
6 pm Meditation St Mary Magdalene's

Thursday 8th October

10 am Eucharist St Michael's, Bishop Middleham (The Revd. Peter Robson)

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

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.

Psalm 25:1-8 R: Remember Lord your compassion and love

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame,
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.
- 3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I hoped all the day long.
- 5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting. R:
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth

or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,
according to your steadfast love.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

8 He will guide the humble in doing right
and teach his way to the lowly. R:

Philippians 2:1-13 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.

Matthew 21:23-32

When he 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.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Parish Prayers

Week beginning 27th September THOSE WHO LIVE IN: (Mon) College House, BM (Tue)
Commercial Street, TC (Wed) Conifer Avenue, S (Thurs) Cooperative Terrace, TG (Fri)
Cordwainer Grove, St Edmunds Manor S (Sat) Coronation Ave, F

Recently Departed

St Alban's - Hazel Chapman **St Catherine's** - Vera Anderson **St Edmund's** – Vera Icton,
Keith Armes, Edna Neasham, Irene Sanderson, Clifford Swinbank **St Mary Magdalene's** -
Joanne Cummings, Maurice Wilkinson, Betty Scott

The Sick

*We remember those known to us who are ill at this time. We give thanks for those who are
regaining their strength. This week our prayers are asked especially for-*

St Alban's –Margaret Gowland, Joyce Teasdale **St Catherine's** - Ivy Potts, Norma Uren, Rita
Fulton, Denise Watson, Irene Grint **St Edmund's** –Emma Dawson, Keith Wells, Anthony
Eadsforth, George Morrison, Luke Spalding, Monica Wilkinson, Chris Fothergill, Gill McDade,
Frank Simpson, Martin Smith, Kim Sutton, Freda Gunn, Gill Bowman, Pam Bennett **St Mary
Magdalene's** –Angela Quinn, Neville Robson, Billy Anderson **St Michael's**- Betty Dykes, Paul
Gray, Kathleen Garrett, Theresa and John Cornwell, Omar Kashoura, Pauline Stevenson .
Janette Howley, Peter Tipper

Prayers - *from the Roots website*

Lord God of all that has been,
all that is and all that will be,
we have all been born and one day we all will die,
but today is a day when all of us are here,
here to worship and praise you.
Accept, O God,
all that we bring and all that we offer,
in the name of Christ.

Amen.

We praise you, Lord, for all that you are,
for the creation that is yours,
for its beauty and wonder, its diversity and richness.
We praise you for your presence and comfort
that swaddle us in your purity and enrich us with your abundance.
We praise you for your steadfastness

that perseveres with us, faltering disciples and failing followers.

We praise you that, day by day, you amaze and enrich us
and reveal yourself in new and unexpected ways.

We praise you that you are the same yesterday,
today and for ever – and yet forever new.

O Lord our God, you are indeed,
from the depth of our being,
highly to be praised.

Amen.

Dear God, help me with the hard things:
with sharing and caring about people I don't really know.

Dear God, help me with the hard things:

when I feel hurt about what has happened or about things I've done.

Dear God, help me with the hard things:

to stand up for what's right, for people who are picked on or left out.

Dear God, thank you for the good things:

my family and friends, for all the fun and good times, but...

dear God, help me with the hard things.

Amen.

In trial and tribulation, God of comfort, be near me.

In loss and devastation, God of grief, grieve with me.

In uncertainty and confusion, God of the way, show me a path.

In want and in need, God of provision, provide for me.

In times of sluggishness and laziness, God of patience, wait for me.

In comfort and in joy, God of love, let me not forget you.

Amen.

Morning Prayer Readings

Week beginning Sunday 27th September (16th Sunday after Trinity)

Collect for Trinity 16

Lord of creation,

whose glory is around and within us:

open our eyes to your wonders,

that we may serve you with reverence

and know your peace at our lives' end,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Day	Psalm	OT Reading	NT Reading
16th after Trinity Sunday 27 th September	127	Isaiah 48.12-21	Luke 11.37.54
Monday 28 th September	44	1 Kings 12.25 – 13.10	Acts 19.8-20
Tuesday 29 th September St Michael & All Angels	34, 150	Daniel 12.1-4	Acts 12.1-11
Wednesday 30 th September	119.57-80	1 Kings 17	Acts 20.1-16
Thursday 1 st October	57	1 Kings 18.1-20	Acts 20.17-end
Friday 2 nd October	51	1 Kings 18.21-end	Acts 21.1-16
Saturday 3 rd October	68	1 Kings 19	Acts 21.17.36
17th after Trinity Sunday 4 th October	128, 129, 134	Isaiah 49.13-23	Luke 12.1-12

Collect for St Michael & All Angels

Everlasting God,

you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order:

grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,

so, at your command,

they may help and defend us on earth;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Collect for Trinity 17

Gracious God,

you call us to fullness of life:

deliver us from unbelief

and banish our anxieties

with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reflection.

Martin King writes: THE SHOCK – a reflection

Earlier this month we enjoyed a few days of unusually warm weather - delightful. On one of them, Alison and I spent a few hours in Hexham, doing a little shopping, walking in the parks and eating a very self-indulgent French lunch. It was a lovely refreshing few hours. On our return to the car, I had a real shock: a neat, handwritten sign saying “No drugs No refugees”.

It horrified me to think that anyone, especially in that favoured town and far from the main ports of entry used by refugees, should bracket refugees and drugs together, as though humans at the end of their tether were an evil on our streets as objectionable as class A drugs.

So I began to speculate. We know how destructive of individual people, their families and communities, drugs can be, and so we rightly reject their misuse; but refugees? There is a fine judgement to be made as to how many any country should be expected to accommodate, but refugees have been a boon to the economy and the cultural life of this country over the centuries, and to the USA even more. We are mongrel peoples, and Covid-19 is making room for more.

And refugees are human beings, mostly loving their own country as their home, but driven out by violence, war or starvation. How sad is that?

They are mostly people with get-up-and-go, and so we can expect them to contribute to our society, not be fearful drain on the housing stock or the jobs market.

Again, you who read this, and I who write it, look to Scripture to inform our moral judgements. Our salvation story starts with Abraham, who dragged his family and herds several hundred miles on foot through a dry and rocky terrain – why? He felt he had to – he felt God was calling him to. Later in the story, the fledgling nation went to Egypt, driven by famine; and a generation or so later set out to return under the pressure of slavery and abuse, despite the fact that Joseph, one of the enslaved children of Israel, had saved thousands of Egyptians from famine.

We recall that after Jesus’ birth, Joseph took him and Mary to Egypt to avoid the massacre of the boys of Bethlehem, and the Gospel spread beyond the limits of the Jewish people partly because of persecution. Refugees drive much of the story of our salvation.

So where does this hostility to refugees come from? I can only guess at an answer. I guess that if someone feels things are not going well for them, they might lash out at anyone in the way, so long as they are identifiable, different and unable to fight back. The problem is not the refugee, but whatever in life is uncomfortable or unfair, whatever it is that feels out of our control.

This, I am afraid, drives more and more of our national life, and there are unscrupulous politicians who exploit fear and destabilise the status quo in order to gain personal power:

think Hitler and the Jews, Trump and Mexicans (and any non-whites)... And someone in Hexham is a sucker for it.

Worship in the Media

There are a number of opportunities to join in with worship and reflect on matters of faith on BBC radio and television. All BBC radio programmes available via the BBC Sounds app.

BBC Radio

The Daily Service

Radio 4 LW 9.45am Monday – Friday

Sunday Worship

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday

Choral Evensong

Radio 3 3.30pm Wednesday Repeated 3pm Sunday

Pause for Thought

Radio 2 5.45am and 9.20am Monday – Friday

Thought for the Day

Radio 4 7.45am Monday – Friday

Sunday

Radio 4 7.10am

BBC TV

BBC1: Sunday:

1.15pm Songs of Praise

Parish Notices

If you have anything you wish to be placed on next week notice sheet please contact the Parish Office on 01740 622012 by **Wednesday** morning. **Email** - office@upperskerne.org.uk
Find us on Facebook – Parish of the Upper Skerne Website – www.upperskerne.org.uk

Clergy Contact Details

Team Vicar – The Revd Elizabeth Bland, St Alban’s Vicarage, Salters Lane, Trimdon Grange TS29 6EX 01429 883151. Temporary Associate Priest - The Revd. Peter Robson – 01740 651960 Clergy (retired) – The Revd. Martin King - 01740 620424, The Revd. Malcolm Masterman 01740 644787 **Parish Contact details** Parish Church Wardens - John Burrows - 01740 469757, Bill Armstrong - 0191 3773847

Electoral Roll Revision

The Electoral Roll of the Parish of the Upper Skerne will be revised between 13 & 27 September 2020. This is not a full revision, so if you are already on the electoral roll you do not need to do anything. However, if you are not on the roll, but wish to be please e mail the Parish Office & a form will be sent out to you.

Temporary Associate Priest for the Parish of the Upper Skerne

The Bishop has asked the Revd Peter Robson to work with us for the foreseeable future as a temporary Associate Priest. He will be available on Sundays and on Mondays and Thursdays

during the week. He will take some funerals and will be able to do some pastoral visiting and home communions. He will begin working in the parish from 1st October.

Annual Meetings – Venue changes – please note

Please see below for the dates of the meetings, more information to follow – venue changes are highlighted in **bold**

7 pm PCC APCM – 12th October at **St Edmund's**

Team Rector

We are sorry to announce that Geoff's illness is continuing and that he is still unable to resume his duties as Team Rector. We can assure you that he is receiving a great deal of support from the Bishop and the Archdeacon. We hope to have more definite news soon. Meanwhile, please continue to remember Geoff and Paula in your prayers. As before, if you need to raise any matters of church business please contact Revd Elizabeth Bland or the Parish Wardens - Bill Armstrong and John Burrows. You can also contact the Parish Office.

Worship Patterns

It has been good to see so many of you at services in church since we were able to reopen our buildings. We are, however, very aware that some people still feel safer worshipping at home. The weekly Zoom services will, therefore, continue for the foreseeable future. This does mean that we are unable to resume weekly services in our churches and so the current pattern of services will continue. We will continue to keep the situation under review. We will also be thinking about some possible experiments with different styles of worship.

St Michael's Harvest Festival

This will take place at the Sunday Eucharist on 11th October. The celebrant will be our new Associate Priest, Revd Peter Robson. There will be a special collection in support of the work of Sightsavers.

Information

Bookings for Baptisms and Weddings

Please e mail the parish Office to enquire about baptisms & weddings.

Trimdon Bereavement Support Group

Please contact Joan Clifford on 01429 880313 for further information

BALM: up and running again at St Michael's

I am pleased to tell you that our Bereavement and Loss Meetings have resumed and are taking place every Tuesday afternoon from 2 till 3.30. In addition we are still supporting people who for various reasons are unable to attend with weekly telephone calls. For further information please ring 01740 656391 or email

janetgraham456@btinternet.com

St Alban's Luncheon Club

This is cancelled until further notice.

Lunch Deliveries

A two course freshly cooked and frozen meal can be ordered from Trimdon Grange Community Centre on a Friday, and will be delivered on the Monday. Call 07899 824429 or email tgcc2014@gmail.com. This initiative is organised by the Trimdon Grange Community Centre volunteers.

One step Forward Sedgefield Bereavement Support Group.

Please contact Sue Archer on 07779 093386.

PARISH SERVICES OCTOBER 2020

SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER 2020

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 8 am Eucharist St Edmund's Sedgefield (The Revd Elizabeth Bland)
- 10 am Eucharist St Edmund's, Sedgefield (The Revd Malcolm Masterman)
- 10 am St Mary Magdalene's, Trimdon Village (The Revd. Peter Robson)
- 6 pm Meditation St Mary Magdalene's

SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER 2020

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 10 am St Catherine's, Fishburn (The Revd. Elizabeth Bland)
- 10 am St Michael's, Bishop Middleham (The Revd. Peter Robson)
- 6 pm Meditation St Mary Magdalene's

SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 2020

ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST

- 10 am St Edmund's, Sedgefield (The Revd. Peter Robson)
- 10 am St Mary Magdalene's, Trimdon Village (The Revd. Martin King)
- 6 pm Meditation St Mary Magdalene's

SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER 2020

LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 10 am St Michael's, Bishop Middleham (The Revd. Malcolm Masterman)
- 11.30 am St Alban's, Trimdon Grange (The Revd. Peter Robson)
- 6 pm Meditation St Mary Magdalene's

