

## ALL SAINTS' DAY

Next Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November,  
will be a very busy day for All Saints'

It will be our Patronal Festival at 11am  
and Bob will be live streaming it from All Saints'.

Andy will be taking a baptism service at 12.30.

The will be a burial of ashes at 2.30.

Then we have our  
**Service of Light for the recently bereaved** at **4pm**  
where anyone who has lost someone dear to them  
can light a candle in remembrance  
and listen to prayers and readings.

For those wishing to spend a quiet time in church  
to remember a loved one,  
or to pray for someone in need,  
there will be an opportunity  
to light a candle  
and spend a short time in church from **2pm**.

Because of the Covid restrictions masks must be worn.

Space is limited, so we must ask you to book a time.

Please phone Leslye on 0113 281 2488.

If the answer phone comes on please leave your name, number  
and time that you will be coming.  
or email: [leslyeanglican@btinternet.com](mailto:leslyeanglican@btinternet.com)



SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020

Last after Trinity  
Bible Sunday



### Collect for today

Merciful God,  
teach us to be faithful in  
change and uncertainty,

that trusting in your word  
and obeying your will  
we may enter the unfailing joy of  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Readings for today

1 Thessalonians 2.1–8; and Matthew 22.34–end

Today we have a service of Morning Prayer.

We are pleased to welcome

**Alan Stanley and Simon Smalley**

to lead our worship

### Our online Sunday worship for the 25th October 2020

is at 9.15am live from St. Peter's Church Thorner.

This week will be Morning Prayer in the traditional language of Mattins (or Matins)  
from the Book of Common Prayer.

The readings are 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 and Matthew 22:34-46.

The hymn sung by Thorner Choir directed by David Lindley is; 'O love, that will not let me go'  
by George Matheson. Anthem; 'A new commandment' by Peter Nardone.

Link to the YouTube service; <https://youtu.be/LPluWyTJN18>

### REMEMBER

The clocks go **BACK** one hour Sunday morning (the 25<sup>th</sup>).  
You will get an extra hour in bed, but sunset is about 4.30pm

The Vicarage  
Church View  
Thorner  
Leeds LS14 3ED

Saturday 24 October 2020

Dear all

In last Sunday's gospel, the Pharisees and Herodians try to trap Jesus by asking whether they should pay taxes to Caesar. It is one of those loaded questions where you're damned if you do and damned if you don't, a bit like being asked whether you've stopped beating your wife.

Jesus not only cleverly sidesteps the question but also points to a deeper truth. By saying 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's', he accepts that the government has claims on our money, but that God has claims on our lives, our souls and all that we are. God, after all, is our creator and sustainer of all things, without whom we are nothing.

This double message, of recognizing temporal power but recognizing more God's eternal power, is both instructive and helpful in our current situation as a church.

I don't often preach or write about church finances – I think the last time I did was about five years' ago – but this week I felt called to respond to our financial situation both locally and nationally. I do so in recognition of both the problems but also the opportunities that the current state of affairs affords the churches.

Last week I received a letter from the Bishop of Leeds in which he wrote honestly about the parlous state of the diocese's finances. What is true of the national church is also true of the local churches. Each of the parishes in the benefice is facing some degree of challenge financially and is likely to post a loss this year. This is due in part to lower giving via envelopes and collections, fewer fees from weddings and funerals and the absence of social fundraising events, and in part to people having to tighten their belts in the current economic climate. Yet the church hasn't disappeared (and nor have its running costs!), but has been hard at work caring for people and spreading the gospel throughout this time.

Nevertheless, the unprecedented situation over the past seven months has offered us an opportunity to reach out to the wider community through neighbourly support schemes as well as to use the internet as a shop-window for our life and worship; during lockdown over 300 people have viewed some of our services, many more than come to the three churches on a normal Sunday.

The popularity of these alternative ways of 'doing church' mean that each of our churches is looking to develop its ability to reach out into the community in relevant ways. We have

achieved much with some basic equipment – look out for the Remembrance Day services (one for each village) and the usual range of Christmas services (delivered through a mixture of live and online methods) – but they will need funds in order to do this effectively, especially as it looks increasingly likely to be several more months before 'normal' life resumes.

So I have a number of messages, which vary depending on your personal situation.

First, and most importantly, Christianity is not about money. It is about giving to God what belongs to God – our everything and our all, our time and our energy, our passions and our sorrows. So if you are one of the people struggling under the weight of debt, loss of income or concern over job security, then please do not feel the need to give.

If, however, you are able to give more to the church, I strongly encourage you to do so. Over the past seven months we haven't been able to go to the cinema, out for meals or on holiday as normal, so might not have spent as much as we usually would. If you are in that fortunate situation, please reflect on whether you would be able either to increase your giving or to make a one-off gift to the church.

You may be one of the people who normally gives each week via an envelope scheme, but because you haven't been able to go to church you haven't handed in those envelopes. If this is your situation, please think about making a one-off gift to cover the time you haven't been able to attend services, and perhaps consider switching to a monthly standing order instead of weekly envelopes.

I repeat, though, that if you are one of those people who is having to tighten your belt due to debt or loss of income or job, please do not feel guilty. Give to Caesar (the church) what belongs to Caesar, but more importantly give to God what belongs to God – your love, your openness, your care for others – these are far more powerful and important than monetary gifts and are what God really wants from us, whether our financial gifts increase or decrease.

I am putting the names and contact details of the three church treasurers below so that if you do wish to revisit your level of giving or the method by which you give, you can contact the treasurer of your church to talk through the options.

Blessings

Andy

**Barwick:** Norman Whyte – [norman@bowmanellson.co.uk](mailto:norman@bowmanellson.co.uk) / 0113 281 3320

**Scholes:** Ruth Heyes – [ruthheyes61@gmail.com](mailto:ruthheyes61@gmail.com) / 07943 878699

**Thorner:** Jon Graham – [jon.a.graham@btinternet.com](mailto:jon.a.graham@btinternet.com) / 0113 289 3324