

St Martin's Church, Scamblesby



Service of Morning Praise

8th Sunday after Trinity

Scripture & Notices, Sunday 26th July 2026

PLEASE TAKE THIS NOTICE SHEET WITH YOU

Service leader: Derek Elmhirst

Churchwardens: Derek Elmhirst, Peter Myers

Next Sunday, 2nd August

Holy Communion, All Saints' Church, Goulceby, 10am

The Word

Psalm 105.1-11

- ¹ O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- ² Sing to him, sing praises,
and tell of all his marvellous works.
- ³ Rejoice in the praise of his holy name;
let the hearts of them rejoice who seek the Lord.
- ⁴ Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his face continually.
- ⁵ Remember the marvels he has done,
his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,
- ⁶ O seed of Abraham his servant,
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- ⁷ He is the Lord our God;
his judgements are in all the earth.
- ⁸ He has always been mindful of his covenant,
the promise that he made for a thousand generations:
- ⁹ The covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
- ¹⁰ Which he established as a statute for Jacob,
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
- ¹¹ Saying, 'To you will I give the land of Canaan
to be the portion of your inheritance.'

Old Testament - **Genesis 29.15-28**

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' ¹⁹ Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' ²⁶ Laban said, 'This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.' ²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Gospel

Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

³¹ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Confirmation services

'Confirmation' and 'being confirmed' is a very meaningful service that takes place which can help strengthen and encourage people on their journey of faith as Christians. It is a traditional service that is open to young people and adults of all ages. It is preceded by some sessions of preparation and reflection. Confirmation services take place at intervals throughout the year. If you would like more information please do call Revd. Mark Holden, Rural Dean - 01673 857825.

Prayer Points

Have you heard of Lectio-365? It is a free daily prayer guide with morning, midday & night devotionals to help you experience God's presence in your life through regular prayer.

You can find it online at lectio365.com, or as an app for your smartphone at the Apple store or Google Play.

***Oh, when the saints...* 25th July – St Christopher, patron saint of motorists**

The legend goes that St Christopher was a Canaanite who lived in the 3rd century. He was a giant of a man, of fearsome appearance. At first he decided to serve the devil, but when he discovered that the devil was afraid of Christ and His Cross, Christopher decided to serve Christ instead. A nearby hermit instructed Christopher in the Christian faith and assigned to him a place near a river: Christopher's job was to help travellers cross it safely.

All went well, and Christopher helped lots of people on their way until one day a child came along and asked to be carried across.

Christopher put him on his back and set off, but was soon staggering under the astonishing weight of this child. The child then told him that He was in fact Jesus Christ, and that He carried the weight of the whole world. The Christ-child then told Christopher to plant his staff in the ground: the next day it bore flowers and dates – confirmation that the child was indeed who He claimed to be.

After some time more of helping travellers cross the river, Christopher went to the city of Lycia, where he preached the gospel with such success that the Roman emperor (Decius?) had him arrested and imprisoned – especially when Christopher refused to sacrifice to the gods. Two women sent into his cell to seduce him came out converted Christians instead. So Christopher was beaten, shot with arrows and finally beheaded.

Christopher has been well-loved of the English down the centuries. Many wall-paintings of him have been placed on the north wall of churches, opposite the porch, so that he would be seen by all who entered. There was good reason for this: as patron saint of travellers, it was believed that anyone who saw an image of St Christopher would not die that day. As the ancient saying goes: 'Behold St Christopher and go thy way in safety'.

A kind of daily insurance policy against death – this was so good that in due course St Christopher became the patron saint of motorists. There is even a church in the Javel area of Paris where Citroen cars are made, that is dedicated to St Christopher. In modern times, with the increase in air and motorway travel, Christopher has remained popular. When in 1969 the Holy See reduced his feast day, there was a sharp protest in several countries, led in Italy by a number of popular film stars. If you ever travel in a taxi on the Continent, look out for a little St Christopher hanging from the rear-view mirror beside the driver. Now you know why it is there!

Notices

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

Sunday 2nd August – Holy Communion – 10am
All Saints' Church, Goulceby

Sunday 9th August – Holy Communion – 10am
St Helen's Church, Burgh-on-Bain

Wed. 12th August – Celtic Worship w. Holy Communion – 11am
St Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain

Sunday 16th August – Morning Praise – 10am
St Andrew's Church, Donington-on-Bain

Sunday 23rd August – Lammastide service – 10am
St Martin's Church, Scamblesby

Sunday 30th August – Morning Praise – 10am
St Helen's Church, Burgh-on-Bain

Sat. 5th and Sun. 6th September "Open Churches"
Lincolnshire Wolds & Coast Churches Festival

The Parish **Prayer Circle** exists to meet some of the prayer needs of the community. You can join the Prayer Circle or you can make a request for prayer (confidential within the Prayer Circle) by contacting Ann South on 01507 313792)



Asterby Group website: www.asterbygroup.org



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