

St Julian's Church, Benniworth

United Parish of the Asterby Group



Service of Harvest Thanksgiving

18th Sunday after Trinity

**Scripture & Notices for
Sunday 4th October 2026**

PLEASE TAKE THIS NOTICE SHEET WITH YOU

Service leader: Revd Cilla Smith

Churchwardens: Gill Stewart, Bella Campbell

Organist: Kathy Brayshaw

Next Sunday, 11th October

Morning Praise, St Helen's Church, Burgh-on-Bain, 10am

The Word

Readings

Old Testament – Joel 2.21-27

- ²¹ Do not fear, O soil;
 be glad and rejoice,
 for the Lord has done great things!
- ²² Do not fear, you animals of the field,
 for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
 the tree bears its fruit,
 the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
- ²³ O children of Zion, be glad
 and rejoice in the Lord your God;
 for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
 he has poured down for you abundant rain,
 the early and the later rain, as before.
- ²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of grain,
 the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
- ²⁵ I will repay you for the years
 that the swarming locust has eaten,
 the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
 my great army, which I sent against you.
- ²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
 and praise the name of the Lord your God,
 who has dealt wondrously with you.
 And my people shall never again be put to shame.
- ²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
 and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
 And my people shall never again
 be put to shame.

New Testament – **Matthew 6.25-34**

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

The Gospel

Matthew 13.1-9

The Parable of the Sower

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.
² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!"



Oh, when the saints... 4th October – 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi

You'll have heard of Giovanni di Pietro di Bernadone, although he is more probably familiar as Francis of Assisi. On 4th October we will mark 800 years since his death; such was his fame, influence and holiness that he was declared a saint by the pope less than two years after his death.

Francis was born into a prosperous family of silk merchants in Assisi, central Italy, probably in 1181. As a young man he loved clothes, spent money lavishly, and enjoyed a reputation of a jack-the-lad, pleasure-loving and irresponsible. But experience both as a prisoner of war and of illness led him to think deeply about his life, although it took some time for this reappraisal to bear fruit.

Just outside Assisi was the ruined chapel of San Damiano, and it was here that he felt God speak to him, asking him to “repair my church, which as you can see, is falling into ruin”. Little did Francis know at that point that ‘repairing my church’ meant much more than repairing this simple chapel – a task he set about doing.

Francis became known for his devotion to Christ and also his commitment to the poor and bereft. Others were attracted to join him in preaching the gospel and serving the poor. Eventually this was organised into a congregation of poor men (friars), which today we know as the Franciscans.

He established a Rule of Life for these men, later revised as more joined them. A sister organisation, the Poor Clares, was founded for women who wanted to give their lives to God and the service of the poor. Two years before his death, in a period of intense prayer, he is said to have displayed the stigmata – the wounds of Christ – in his

hands and side. By then he was increasingly ill; blindness and malaria took its toll. He died aged just 45.

Simplicity was a hallmark of his life, which has come down to us in a number of ways. Care for the environment is one way; patron saint of animals is another. World Animal Day is the marked on the same day as Francis' death. Many churches will be holding a 'Blessing of the Animals' service, often a cheerful riot of barking dogs, hissing cats, rats and mice in cages, even a stick insect, and horses tethered outside. Is there one in your area where you could take your pet to be blessed?

We should see Francis as a visionary and inspirer, who, impelled by the love of Christ, was able to give himself to, and draw others to, a life of service to the poor, care for the environment, and prayer. By the time he died, there were Franciscan friars over much of Europe. Today, inspired by his legacy, his followers – friars, sisters and lay people – are found all over the world.

Do you have a Rule of Life which you try to live by, one which honours God and seeks the best for humanity? How do you inspire those around you? How do you mark your care for God's creation? You love your pets, but is it time to re-evaluate if you are doing the best by them?

One of Francis' prayers asks God 'to grant us the grace to do for You alone what we know You want us to do, and always to desire what pleases You.' That could be a good rule of life, a star to live by; could you make it yours?

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.

The Ministry Team

Ministry in the Asterby Group is led by a team to ensure that active ministry remains a part of life in the Asterby geographic area now and into the future. The mission of the Ministry Team is *"To encourage and equip believers to serve our brothers and sisters in our communities: to meet their needs, share the Gospel with them, to disciple them, and create the environment for them to meet with God and experience his grace and peace."*

The Ministry Team members are:

- Neil Walker – Authorised Lay Minister & Ministry Team Coordinator.
- Caroline Taylor - Authorised Lay Minister & Churchwarden, All Saint's Goulceby.
- Ann South – Authorised Lay Minister.
- Derek Elmhirst - Locally Recognised Lay Minister & Churchwarden, St Martin's Scamblesby.
- Lynne Parkinson – Churchwarden, St Andrew's Donington.
- Revd Andrew Roberts
- Revd Mark Holden – Rural Dean

If you'd like to know more, please contact the Team Coordinator on 07771 861202.

Notices

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

Sunday 11th October – Morning Praise – 10am
St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain

Wed. 14th October – Celtic worship with Holy Communion – 11am
St Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain

Sunday 18th October – Holy Communion – 9:30am
St Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain

Sunday 25th October – Holy Communion – 10am
All Saint's Church, Goulceby

Sunday 1st November – Holy Communion, All Saint's Day – 10am
St Martin's Church, Scamblesby

Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday – 10:30am
St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain

Wed. 11th Nov. – Remembrance service
with Donington Primary School – 10:45am
St Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain

The Parish **Prayer Circle** exists to meet some of the prayer needs of the community. 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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