St Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain

United Parish of the Asterby Group



Service with Holy Communion

Second Sunday before Advent

Scripture & Notices for Sunday 15th November 2026

PLEASE TAKE THIS NOTICE SHEET WITH YOU

Service leader: Revd Mark Holden
Churchwardens: Lynne Parkinson, Graham Parkinson
Music: Kathy Brayshaw (organ)

Next Sunday, 22nd November
Morning Praise, St Martin's Church, Scamblesby, 10am

The Word

Psalm 90.1-12
(from the Common Worship Psalter)

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the earth and the world were formed,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
3 You turn us back to dust and say:
'Turn back, O children of earth.'
4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday,
which passes like a watch in the night.
5 You sweep them away like a dream;
they fade away suddenly like the grass.
6 In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.
8 You have set our misdeeds before you
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
our years come to an end like a sigh.
10 The days of our life are three score years and ten,
or if our strength endures, even four score;
yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow,
for they soon pass away and we are gone.
11 Who regards the power of your wrath
and your indignation like those who fear you?
12 So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Readings

Old Testament – **Zephaniah 1.7,12-18** (NRSV)

7 Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
'The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm.'
13 Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

New Testament – **1 Thessalonians 5.1-11** (NRSV)

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters,
you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves
know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the
night. 3 When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden
destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a
pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, beloved,
are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you
are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night
or of darkness. 6 So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us
keep awake and be sober; 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and
those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the
day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and
for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for
wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may
live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each
other, as indeed you are doing.

The Gospel

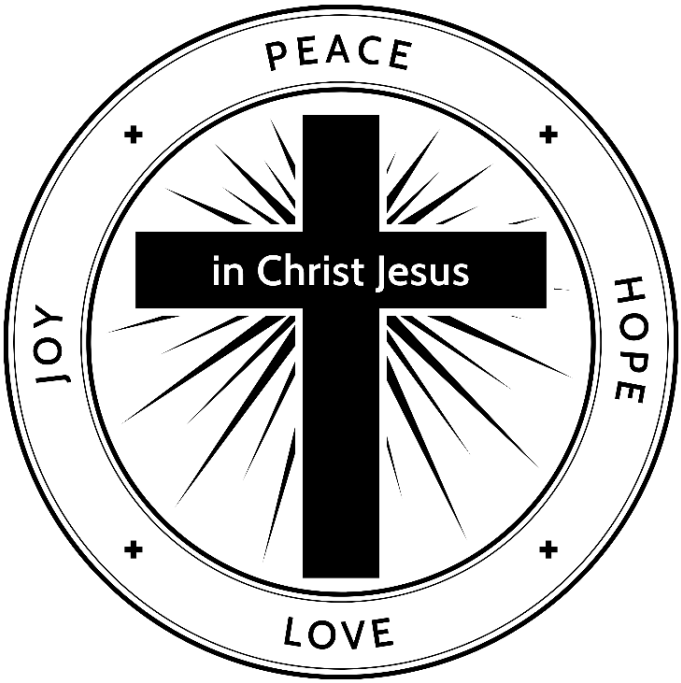
Matthew 25.14-30 (NRSV)

14 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." 21 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." 23 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." 26 But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather

where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."



Oh, when the saints… 16th November – St Margaret of Scotland

Some women have power, and some women are good. When a woman with power is also good, she can achieve an astonishing amount.

Margaret of Scotland has been called 'The Pearl of Scotland', but she began life in Hungary about 1045. She was born to the expatriate English prince Edward the Exile, and so was an English princess. The family returned to Wessex in 1057, when she was 13, and following the death of King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, her brother Edgar Aetheling should have been King of England, but he was never crowned. Instead, the family fled north, to Scotland, where she was married to Malcolm III of Scotland by 1070. As a Scottish queen she went on to become mother of three kings of Scotland, and of a queen consort of England.

Margaret was a Christian, and became a good friend of Lanfranc, a future archbishop of Canterbury. Her biographer tells of how she read narratives from the Bible to her husband, thus helping to 'civilise' him. He was illiterate, but so admired her reading, that he had her books decorated with gold and silver. She was also credited with helping her youngest son, the future King David I of Scotland, towards becoming a just and holy ruler.

Margaret introduced the worship and practise of the Church of Rome into Scotland. She also wanted to help the many pilgrims travelling in Scotland, and so she established a ferry across the Firth of Forth, which is where the towns South Queensferry and North Queensferry got their names.

Margaret performed many charitable works for the poor, and she interceded for the release of English exiles who had been forced into

serfdom following the Norman conquest. She also began the restoration of Iona Abbey.

In private life, Margaret spent much of her time in prayer, using a cave on the banks of the Tower Burn in Dunfermline as a place of devotion and prayers. St Margaret's Cave is still there today, covered beneath a municipal car park.

Margaret died in 1093, and in 1250 Pope Innocent IV canonised her. Her relics were dispersed after the Scottish Reformation, but at one time Mary, Queen of Scots, owned her head.

Coming soon…. The excitement of the Sunday of Christ the King

The last Sunday in November is the last Sunday of the church year, and in some ways the most important. Why? Because everything else in the Christian year looks BACK on what happened 2000 years ago. The Sunday of Christ the King looks FORWARD to what we can expect next…. the return one day of Jesus Christ to this earth, as King of Kings.

Does the idea of Jesus of Nazareth literally returning to earth seem a bit quaint to accept, in our computerised world of e-mails and the internet? Well, that is what the Bible says will happen – it is promised more than 250 times!

The Bible is quite clear: the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings will take place personally, powerfully, bodily, visibly, publicly – and INSTANTLY. (Read Matthew 24:30,31, or I Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:3.) Here are words of Jesus Himself:

For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. (Luke 17:24)

This will be no local story for a BBC TV reporter to cover if he gets time. That day he won't be interviewing the Carpenter of Nazareth,

wearing Galilean homespun. Jesus will be in His incandescent brilliance as the 'Son of Man' – a bit of a challenge even for TV reporters! Certainly when Peter, James and John were witness to their familiar Master 'transfigured', as the same irradiated Person – in a dramatic preview of Christ's triumphant final rule (Luke 9:28-36), they did not feel very confident.

The martyred Stephen, about to die, had a similar glimpse: "Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God' (Acts 7:56). The exiled apostle John on the island of Patmos saw the same figure: '…His face was like the sun shining in full strength' (Revelation 1:16.)

When Christ one day returns, the whole world will finally witness this same spectacle (Revelation 1:7). His return will mark the end of history, as we know it. It will inaugurate the final Judgment. It will re-unite the Lord with His Church on earth.

Jesus' return to us will bring about the new heaven and the new earth. Pain, death, persecution, privation and sorrow will all be banished. The entire edifice of evil that has raised itself against the rule of God will be dismantled in a moment.

We have been warned all along not to place a date or a time upon the Second Coming of Christ. (Matthew 24:42-44) Sadly, many people ignore this warning and waste endless time in calculations. The way in which we should be spending our days before the end is to work, watch and witness to our Lord Jesus – whether or not ours is a world of computers, e-mail and all the rest!

In the meantime, where is Jesus now? The Bible writers tells us that Jesus has returned to the place of privilege and power, and is 'seated at the right hand' of the Father (Ephesians 1:20-21; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3), and is waiting for the Father's timing for Him to return

to earth in glory (Mark 13:26-27,32), to raise the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and give them their resurrection bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-44).

Jesus will never be a baby again. He is now Christ the King – today, tomorrow, forever.

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.

Between Sundays…. Advent sessions

We will be running a series of 4 sessions this Advent based on the theme of Generous God, Generous Giving, which ties in nicely with the Church of England theme of the Gift of Christmas this year. Please look out for information on these sessions, which previous participants have found great for focusing on the *real* Christmas, and an antidote to the commercial frenzy we get led into.





The vicar's alternative to traditional after-service coffee was having a dramatic effect on male church attendance

Notices

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

Sunday 22nd November – Morning Praise – 10am
St Martin's Church, Scamblesby

Sunday 29th November – Morning Praise – 10am
St Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain

Sunday 29th November – Taizé service – 6pm
St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain

Sunday 6th December – details to be confirmed

Tues. 8th December – Carols by Candlelight – 7pm
All Saint's Church, Goulceby

Thurs. 10th December – Carol service
with the Banovallum Brass Band – 6pm
St Julian's Church, Benniworth

Sunday 13th December – Holy Communion – 10am
St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain

Sunday 13th December – Carol service – 3pm
St Peter's Church, Gayton-le-Wold

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
www.facebook.com/groups/asterbygroup