

The Churches of the Forest of Galtres Benefice

Sutton on the Forest & Huby : Stillington : Marton in the Forest : Farlington : Sheriff Hutton

Issue No 338

Sunday 4th October 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Introduction

Welcome to the eighteenth Sunday after Trinity. In church parlance we are in the second period of *Ordinary Time* - possibly not a term which drives your everyday life but I thought you might like to know. More importantly, this Sunday is the day the Church of England asks us to focus on *homelessness*. In England there are approximately 750,000 people who are homeless, living in temporary accommodation or 'sleeping rough.' Here in North Yorkshire we are fairly well insulated from homelessness – just 542 recorded homeless people in our county. A small percentage of the whole. If we had our percentage share of the homeless by the land area of the county we would be needing to accommodate over 46,000. A considerable challenge. Look around and there are empty places that could be housing accommodation and there are pockets of land which could be released for housing. Initiative and ingenuity, could be providing welcome living spaces.

Bringing the matter closer to our Church of England there are encouraging developments taking place. The Church Commissioners are now accepting lower profit margins on land sales where they can enable the construction of truly affordable homes. Also, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York commissioned a report entitled *Coming Home : Tackling the Housing Crisis Together*. This says the Church must ensure that housing developments on church land must be environmentally friendly, free from danger and poor construction, offer long-term rental security, located to prevent isolation and well designed. All features I hope we can support. And then there is the initiative by the Archbishops Council which is providing practical assistance to local parishes in unlocking small pockets of church-owned land to build affordable housing – in our Benefice the vicarage land in Sutton on the Forest springs to mind as an opportunity.

Hopefully, next week's topic will be less challenging. Or should we welcome a challenge if only to stimulate our thinking. Until next week

Richard Haste, Acting Benefice Chair.

Coming to Church on Sunday – October 4th

Sutton	Harvest Festival	11.00am	
Stillington	Morning Worship	10.00am	
Marton	Celtic Communion	6.00pm	

Coming to Church next Sunday – October 11th

Sheriff Hutton	Harvest Festival	10.00	Led by Archdeacon Liz Hassall
Stillington	Harvest Service	10.00	
Farlington	Shortened Matins	10.30	



All Hallows Sutton & Huby

Welcome you to join them

at their Harvest Festival

11am Sunday 4th October

Followed by
Sandwiches and Refreshments
in the Church Room

The Lesson Isaiah 5 : 1 - 7**The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard**

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

The Epistle Philippians 3 : 4 - 14 Pressing towards the Goal

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the Church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel Matthew 21 : 33 – 45**The Parable of the Wicked Tenants**

‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes”?’

Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realised that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

York Diocese Sunday Reflection

can be found on this link

[Sunday Reflections | Diocese of York](#)