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Please put a note in the 'reference' box for online banking so treasurers know what the payment is for and/or from whom, if that is important. Thank you.

May 11th, 2022

Dear friends of St Clement and St Nicholas,

I don't know how many managed to see the Vicar of Dibley play at the Arts House. Well worth it just to see a perfect impersonation of Miss Tinker the verger. The rest of the cast had a high bar to aim for as the audience knew their characters very well. They held some rehearsals in the Caldwell Hall and as we were enjoying complimentary seats I felt the least I could do was wear a dog collar.

The inevitable questions were asked by strangers and friends alike- 'is it like your church ? With a very small cast in the original and the play, the drama captures much of the range of people in any church and we have our fair share of Dibley moments.

Different roles in the community, a variety of interests and aptitudes- all muddling along as any group of mainly volunteers will do.

Within the next three months the parishes of St. Martin and St. Peter will be saying goodbye to their equivalent of Rev. Gerry and beginning to search for new rectors. With help needed in another parish to cover illness, this will stretch Deanery resources, particularly over the holiday periods and our clergy team will need to go on tour from time to time. The bonus for the clergy at St.Clement and St Nicholas are the thoughts and ideas that always come when we help out at another church.

In the same way if you are going away and visit a church do bring back their notice sheets and any other news. Rev. Gerry brought fresh ideas to Dibley and faced a few surprises herself. The last couple of years have encouraged and forced upon us, new ways of doing things, let's continue to evolve as more normal times resume and do pray that the usually snail like pace of Deanery recruitment might surprise us for once.

With best wishes from all your clergy,

David

**Welcome to St Clement Church - Service of Holy Communion
May 15th, 2022**

CA 9

**Alleluia, alleluia
Hearts to heav'n and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise:
He who on the cross a victim
For the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
Now is risen from the dead.**

**Christ is risen, Christ the first fruits
Of the holy harvest field,
Which will all its full abundance
At his second coming yield;
Then the golden ears of harvest
Will their heads before him wave,
Ripened by his glorious sunshine,
From the furrows of the grave.**

**Christ is risen, we are risen;
Shed upon us heav'nly grace,
Rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
From the brightness of thy face;
That we, with our hearts in heaven,
Here on earth may fruitful be,
And by angel-hands be gathered,
And be ever, Lord, with thee.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour,
Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia, alleluia,
To the Triune Majesty.**

The Greeting The Lord be with you. **and also with you.**

Prayer of Preparation Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Penitence Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. **Amen. Lord, have mercy**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died

for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you. Pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, Heav'nly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter. Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The First Reading is taken from Acts Chapter 11, beginning to read at the first verse. (Acts 11 1-18)

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him ³ and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

⁴ Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. ⁶ I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. ⁷ Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'

⁸ "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

⁹ "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' ¹⁰ This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

¹¹ "Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. ¹² The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴ He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.' ¹⁵ "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with^[a] water, but you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

THE GRADUAL HYMN CA 667

**The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Death's mightiest pow'rs have done
Their worst,
And Jesus hath his foes dispersed
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**On the third morn he rose again
Glorious in majesty to reign**

**O let us swell the joyful strain
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Lord by the stripes which wounded thee
From death's dread sting thy servants free
That we may live, and sing to thee
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**The Gospel Reading: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord (John 13 31-35)**

¹When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him,^[a] God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³"My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you O Christ**

Reflection Tracy I thought you might appreciate a picture of Peter's dream! Three times the dream came to him so that he would be under no illusions as to its meaning. It's application followed as he was invited to the home of a gentile, a Roman soldier named Cornelius, who had also had a supernatural experience and been directed to invite Peter to his home. For Cornelius and his household it was the beginning of a deeper relationship with God and for Peter it was evidence that God loved the world and the Holy Spirit was a gift for everyone to receive.

The Creed We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession: We sit or kneel Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

As we ponder Jesus' words to love as he loves, remember that he spoke these words to his disciples just hours before his betrayal and arrest. Pray that our first responses be to love.

Pray that Love might be at the forefront of all we do as a Church in the world. Spend a little time praying for someone from your church family.

Pray for peace in the world and for humanity to learn to live together in unity. Pray for all who operate out of anger and a love for power – for people who stoke the fires of conflict. Bring to God the people of Ukraine and all living with daily conflict – including people who suffer abuse from people known to them.

Remember Jesus' command to love. Pray for help to love people we find difficult/impossible to love – perhaps pray that we want to be able to pray to love.

God in Jesus showed us what love looks like ... pray for people who feel forgotten, people who have never known what being loved is like. Pray they might have a revelation of Jesus and know the love that God has for them.

Spend time praying for the sick and the suffering, for all who cry out for relief from pain, physical, emotional and spiritual. Remember people in hospital, hospice and nursing/residential homes. For people in respite and families trying to care for people in their own homes.

Remember again the joy of Jesus risen and Jesus' promise of a place in his Father's house. Give thanks for loved ones now in God's care and pray for everyone walking through the valley of the shadow of death.

Spend time praying for all in mourning and pray they receive love from the people around them.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace We stand to share the Peace: Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

All: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all now and forever more Amen.

Preparation of the Table:

THE OFFERTORY HYMN CA 429

Love is his word, love is his way,
Feasting with all, fasting alone,
Living and dying, rising again,
Love only love, is his way

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord
Better than splendour and wealth.*

Love is his mark, love is his sign,
Bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
This is my body, this is my blood,
Love, only love, is his sign. (refrain)

Love is his sign, love is his news,
Do this, he said, lest you forget
All my deep sorrow, all my dear blood
Love, only love, is his news. (refrain)

Love is his news, love is his name,
We are his own, chosen and called,
Family, brethren, cousins and kin.
Love, only love, is his name. (refrain)

Love is his name, love is his law,
Hear his command, all who are his,
Love one another, I have loved you
Love, only love, is his law. (refrain)

Love is his law, love is his word
Love of the Lord, Father and word,
Love of the Spirit, God ever one,
Love, only love is his word. (refrain)

**Richer than gold is the love of my Lord
Better than splendour and wealth.**

The Eucharistic Prayer The Lord be with you. **and also with you** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean. This is his story. **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest**

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him. On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people. This is his story **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father for the food; he took bread; gave thanks, broke it and said: This is my body, given for you all. Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me. This is our story: **This is our song; Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world. This is his story. **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest**

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Prayer before the Distribution:

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayers after Communion We stand; Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Dismissal: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

THE FINAL HYMN CA 503

O Jesus I have promised
To serve thee to the end
Be thou forever near me
My Master and my friend
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me
The world is ever near
I see the sights that dazzle
The tempting sounds I hear
My foes are ever near me
Around me and within
But, Jesus, draw thou nearer
And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still
Above the storms of passion
The murmurs of self will
O speak to reassure me
To hasten or control
O speak and make me listen
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be.
And Jesus I have promised
To serve thee to the end
O give me grace to follow
My Master and my friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in thy strength alone
O guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end
And then in heav'n receive me
My Saviour and my friend.

The Grace: May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. **Amen.**