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**Facebook: St Clement Church Jersey Channel Islands – watch 10.30am service live and recorded**

Web site: [www.stclementschurch.org.je](http://www.stclementschurch.org.je)

Treasurers and church bank account details:

St Clement: Martin Dryden [drydenmj@outlook.com](mailto:drydenmj@outlook.com) **St Clement Church 40-25-34 84087488**

St Nicholas: Ian Bromley [captainimb@aol.com](mailto:captainimb@aol.com) Payments for St Nicholas Church have now been clarified and these are the amended bank details for St Nicholas Church:

**St Clements Parish Church 40-25-34 94289579**

***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.***

**September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Dear friends of St Clement and St Nicholas,**

This is the Sunday when we traditionally celebrate harvest. In reality we enjoy the fruits of harvests from around the world every week of the year. Governments gather in taxes and distribute the collective harvest. Some harvests take longer to yield fruit but when they do it can be a bumper one. This week saw the announcement of over £3 million for a new youth club building for Le Squez. As a member and for many years the chair of the charity management committee of the club I have lost count of the number of plans and promises. The fruit was reportedly wonderful but never quite ripe and to be honest in the current financial climate I had given up hope of ever seeing a new building. The whole area around had been demolished and rebuilt and the number of users increased.

The club does very important work with young people as well as providing a venue for a lot of fun. From the charitable trust money we are given each year to distribute, as rector and church wardens, we fund the food for cooking lessons and grants towards summer activities. The parish rates help fund the salary of the assistant youth worker. We are always on the look out for more committee members, which we have really struggled to find. It is not particularly time consuming - just a few meetings a year but expertise in finance, fundraising or education would always be helpful. Do let me know if you would be interested.

What we can all do is find a few items in our cupboards or buy extra and bring gifts for harvest. These will be given to the Grace Trust who do an excellent job helping those who are struggling.

So let's give thanks for the harvest and give generously.

We hope you are keeping well.

David

**Welcome to St Clement Parish Church  
Harvest Family Service with the welcome  
September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Lord be with you  
**All: And also with you.**

All things come from you, O God  
**All: And of your own do we give you.**

**All: Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray. Lift our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**A&M 282**

**Come, ye thankful people, come,  
Raise the song of harvest-home:  
All be safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin,  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple, come;  
Raise the song of harvest-home!**

**All the world is God's own field,  
Fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown,  
Unto joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear:  
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come,  
And shall take his harvest home;  
From his field shall purge away  
All that doth offend, that day;  
Give his angels charge at last  
In the fire the tares to cast,  
But the fruitful ears to store  
In his garner evermore.**

**The Welcome and Bible**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

**All: We welcome you into the fellowship of faith. We are children of the same heavenly Father, we welcome you.**

**Psalms 67.6** The land has yielded its harvest. God, our own God, has blessed us. Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth ;

**Serve the Lord with gladness! Come before him with joyful songs; Give thanks to him and praise his name! Amen**

God has redeemed us, called us by name and made us his own, and yet we forget that all we have is gift. Let us confess our desire to place ourselves at the heart of creation:

*We keep a moment of quiet for reflection*

You delight in creation and diversity; yet we have misused the earth and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends. Lord have mercy **All: Lord have mercy**

You have brought order out of chaos, light in darkness, good out of evil, but we have preferred darkness in words and deeds which dishonour God's holy name. Christ have mercy

**All: Christ have mercy**

You have showered us with blessings, but we have been grudging towards others and lacking in generosity in word and deed. Lord have mercy **All: Lord have mercy**

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

*Children bring gifts to the altar during the hymn.*

## **A&M 285**

**God, whose hand is all creation,  
take the gratitude we give;  
take the finest of our harvest,  
crops we grow that we may live.**

**Take our ploughing, seeding, reaping,  
hopes and fears of sun and rain,  
all our thinking, planning, waiting,  
ripened in this fruit and grain.**

**All our labour, all our watching,  
all our calendar of care,  
in these crops of your creation,  
take, O God: they are our prayer.**

## **The Readings:**

**The First Reading is taken Jonah, Chapter 3, beginning to read at the tenth verse (Jonah 3 10-4-10)**

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant<sup>[a]</sup> and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead." But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

Response after reading: For the gift of the Word of life **Thanks be to God**

## The Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (Matthew 20 1-16)

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius<sup>[a]</sup> for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

<sup>16</sup> “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

**Reflection:** Tracy Both readings tell us something about ourselves and God. The reading from Jonah, aside from showing our ability to sulk when things do not go the way we think they should, highlights how willing God is to forgive the repentant. God is abundant in love and mercy. In the reading from Luke, aside from showing us how important it is we receive what we think is fair, highlights that God sees fairness as very different. There is more to it than just money. May be we might cast our mind back to days in the playground when we were not chosen to be in the team because we had two left feet or couldn't catch 'for toffee'. No one is left out in God's economy – all are welcome. At this time of Harvest Thanksgiving there is no shortage of harvests here. We have an abundance of food. We are the fortunate ones. It is up to us to reflect the abundance we find in God and give when we are able – not just money or tins of food but of ourselves, of time and of patience and of loving kindness.

Let's join in celebrating the harvest and give generously in thanks to God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Praise and thanksgiving,  
Father, we offer  
For all things living  
Thou madest good:  
Harvest of sown fields  
Fruits of the orchard,  
Hay from the mown fields,  
Blossom and wood.

Bless thou the labour  
We bring to serve thee,  
That with our neighbour  
We may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling  
We would work with thee;  
Harvesting, milling  
For daily bread.

Father, providing  
Food for thy children,  
Thy wisdom guiding  
Teaches us share  
One with another,  
So that rejoicing  
With us, our brother  
May know thy care.

Then will thy blessing  
Reach every people  
Freely confessing  
Thy gracious hand.  
Where thy will reigneth  
No one will hunger:  
Thy love sustaineth;  
Fruitful the land.

**The Collect for the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity:** O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Prayers of Intercession:** Prayers ending: Lord in your mercy  
**All: Hear our prayer**

Creator God, you are the source of all good things, and on you we depend. Give us eyes to see that truth and hearts to be thankful.

We bring you the harvest of vegetables which fill our bodies with goodness and health. Give us wisdom not to pollute the earth and poison the ground that feeds us, but rather to respect and cherish the good things that surround us.

We bring you the harvests of our cornfields, and the bread which feeds the world. Make us generous in a world where the poor are often sent away empty.

We bring you the harvest of our inventiveness, the tools and machinery we use to process the gifts we receive from you. We thank you for gifts of the mind, for knowledge, innovation and industry. May we always work with you and not against you to look after the world.

We bring you our families and all whom we love. May all in need of healing and comfort know the blessing of your presence with them.

Creator God, may we be generous with all we have been given and reflect your generosity in our community, in our world.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**All: 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**

### **A&M 290**

**We plough the fields, and scatter  
the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by God's almighty hand:  
he sends the snow in winter,  
the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine,  
and soft, refreshing rain.**

***All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above,  
then thank the Lord,  
O thank the Lord, for all his love.***

**He only is the maker  
of all things near and far;  
he paints the wayside flower,  
he lights the evening star;  
the winds and waves obey him,  
by him the birds are fed;  
much more to us, his children,  
he gives our daily bread.                      Refrain)**

**We thank thee then, O Father,  
for all things bright and good;  
the seed-time and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food.  
Accept the gifts we offer  
for all thy love imparts,  
and, what thou most desirest,  
our humble, thankful hearts.**

***All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above,  
then thank the Lord,  
O thank the Lord, for all his love.***

### **The Blessing**

Lord of the seedtime and the harvest, you have blessed us with many things.

Send us from this place further blessed and strengthened so that we might live and grow and bear good fruit to your praise and glory.

**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**

### **KENYAN BLESSING**

All our problems.

**We send to the cross of Christ.**

All our difficulties.

**We send to the cross of Christ.**

All the devils works.

**We send to the cross of Christ.**

All our hopes.

**We set on the risen Christ.**