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Treasurers and church bank account details:

St Clement: Martin Dryden drydenmj@outlook.com **St Clements Parish Church 40-25-34 84087488**

St Nicholas: Ian Bromley 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 13^h, 2023

Dear Friends of St Clement and St Nicholas

The very warm temperatures have felt as if we have been transported to the beginning of Summer – although according to the Met Office we are now officially in Autumn. However, the astronomical calendar (based on the position of the sun in relation to the Earth) says we have almost two weeks before Autumn begins. I know which I prefer!

As David mentioned in his letter last week our Harvest Thanksgiving takes place on the 24th September – just within Autumn. This is the time when we say thank you together for the miracle of harvests in Jersey and all over the world. It is truly a miracle that seeds become plants and plants bud, blossom and produce what we need to survive.

In our Genesis passage Jacob has died and Joseph's brothers are worrying that their actions against Joseph will be held against them. They need not have worried. Joseph's faith in God has ripened over the years – 'you plotted evil against me, but God turned it into good'. May our faith similarly ripen with the passing years!

Please come and join us on the 24th and, if you are able, bring some produce or dry goods and tins for the Grace Trust. It will be appreciated and it will be lovely to see you.

We hope you are keeping well.

Tracy

CA 687

Through the night of doubt and sorrow
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.

Clear before us, through the darkness,
gleams and burns the guiding light;
so we march in hope united,
stepping fearless through the night.

One the light of God's own presence
o'er his ransomed people shed,
chasing far the gloom and terror,
bright'ning all the path we tread.

One the object of our journey,
one the faith which never tires,
one the earnest looking forward,
one the hope our God inspires.

One the strain that lips of thousands
lift as from the heart of one;
one the conflict, one the peril,
one the march in God begun.

One the gladness of rejoicing
on the far eternal shore,
where the one almighty Father
reigns in love for evermore.

Onward, therefore, fellow pilgrims,
onward with the cross our aid;
bear its shame and fight its battle,
till we rest beneath its shade.

Soon shall come the great awaking,
soon the rending of the tomb;
then the scatt'ring of all shadows,
and the end of toil and gloom.

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.

. Prayers 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

neighbor 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, Heavenly 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 Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity: God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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**

The First Reading is taken from Genesis Chapter 50, beginning to read at the fifteenth verse (Genesis 50 15-21)

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

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

THE GRADUAL HYMN A&M 387

**Rise and hear! The Lord is speaking,
as the gospel words unfold;
we, in all our age-long seeking,
find no firmer truth to hold.**

**Word of goodness, truth, and beauty,
heard by simple folk and wise,
word of freedom, word of duty,
word of life beyond our eyes.**

**Word of God's forgiveness granted
to the wild or guilty soul
word of love that works undaunted
changes, heals, and makes us whole.**

**Speak to us, O Lord, believing,
as we hear, the sower sows;
may our hearts, your word receiving
be the good ground where it grows.**

The Gospel Reading:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (**Matthew 18: 21-35**)

Glory to you , O Lord

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.^[a]

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold^[b] was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

"At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.^[c] He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Reflection: David Can you remember going into a church and seeing the Ten Commandments inscribed on the walls. We don't have them displayed in St. Clement or St. Nicholas but I imagine that as congregations let their minds wander during sermons those simple words probably had more effect than even the most erudite preacher.

So imagine if before the Lord's Prayer we had a picture or a short account that brought to mind the challenge of this week's readings just before we said for the thousandth time 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'

Maybe we could excuse our failure to mirror prayer with action because of the obscure word 'trespass' Modern versions include:

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Again a word, 'sin' which we rarely use so perhaps we might find the

Message Bible helpful 'Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others'. A bit vague perhaps so alternatives include:

'Forgive us for doing wrong as we forgive others'

'Forgive us the wrongs we have done as we forgive others the wrongs done to us'

Or back on time we have the Middle English version which was spoken in England for about three hundred years from around 1150s in the early days of St. Clement's Church : very succinctly : 'Oure dettis and dettouris' A sense of our debts to God and what others owe us, which fits in well with the picture painted by Jesus in the parable. The wicked servant more than happy to ask for forgiveness from the master for the financial debts he owed but then hypocritically failing to pass on that generosity of spirit to people who owed him money.

What are the grudges, debts , sins we hold against others and fail to forgive and let us pause for thought and hopefully grant forgiveness as we pray we will be forgiven when we next say the prayer Jesus taught us.

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.

God of mercy, your love overwhelms us. You are always ready to forgive. May all who are truly sorry, receive the knowledge they are forgiven and know the strength to start again.

Spend a little time praying for people who find it hard to forgive and for those who need to ask forgiveness.

God of mercy, you hold before us a model of justice tempered by mercy. We pray for our prisons and all who work and live in them. We pray for people who work to rehabilitate and to reconcile one with the other. Give them patient understanding.

God of mercy, you release us from a debt we can never repay. We pray for all out of their depth financially and exposed to the unscrupulous.

Spend time praying for our financial institutions and for those whose task it is to protect the money in their care and promote responsible lending.

God of mercy we pray for the people of Morocco and Libya whose lives have been turned upside down by earthquake and flood. We pray too for the people of Ukraine and for an end to war and a beginning of peace.

God of mercy we bring to you those whose lives are filled with the pain of ill-health and are weary with it all. Pour out your healing presence on all who suffer and struggle to cope.

Spend time praying for people you know who are suffering.

God of mercy, whether we live or die we are yours. Hear us as we remember with love all who have died. Comfort all who mourn. Rooted and grounded in your love bring us all to share in the fullness of life with you.

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 us all evermore. Amen.

Preparation of the Table:

THE OFFERTORY HYMN (when the offertory would have been taken)

A&M 247

Holy Spirit, gift bestower,
breathe into our hearts today.
flowing water, dove that hovers,
Holy Spirit, guide our way.
Love inspirer, joy releaser,
Spirit, take our fears away.
Reconciler, peace restorer,
move among us while we pray.

Holy Spirit, Christ proclaimer,
wisdom bringer, light our way.
Fire that dances, wind that whispers,
Holy Spirit, come today.
Ease disturber, comfort bearer,
move among us while we pray.
Truth revealer, faith confirmer,
rest within our hearts today.

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 Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**

THE FINAL HYMN

A&M 476

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labour to pursue,
thee, only thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.

The task thy wisdom hath assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfil;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.

Preserve me from my calling's snare,
and hide my simple heart above,
above the thorns of choking care,
the gilded baits of worldly love.

Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes my inmost substance see,
and labour on at thy command,
and offer all my works to thee.

Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to thy glorious day.

For thee delightfully employ
whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given,
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heaven.

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.**