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(*the reference to St Clement is correct*)

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

June 25th, 2025

Dear Friends of St Clement & St Nicholas

I try to avoid daily news. Instead, I subscribe to weekly publications and have done so for many years. I think that journalists can reflect in more depth on events if they are writing with the benefit of hindsight and not endlessly reacting to the latest development. But the downside of weekly publications is that they can be overtaken by rapidly moving events, such as the ones we are currently witnessing in the Middle East.

I have had to write this letter before the appointments committee met to review the applications for the position of Rector of St Clement and decided who to call for interview on 28-29th July. Who did they select? Sometimes too much information is not helpful. The candidates need to be confident that their interest in St Clement will not filter back to their existing parishes. Our newly-adopted Parish Prayer helps us to wait in faith, hope and love and to concentrate on the most important things. Do please pray it is often as you can: Lord God, we thank you that you know all our needs before we ask and that you go ahead to prepare the way for us. We pray for the person you have chosen to be our next Rector. May they respond gladly to your call. While we wait, send your Holy Spirit to help us to be patient, to build us up in faith and love, and to equip us to serve you well with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Martin

**Welcome to St Clements Parish Church
Service of Morning Worship in Ordinary Time**

June 29th, 2025

Notices for next week: July 6th, 2025

**9am Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church
10.30am Holy Communion at St Clement Church**

A&M 6

**Lord, as the day begins
lift up our hearts in praise;
take from us all our sins,
guard us in all our ways:
our every step direct and guide
that Christ in all be glorified!**

**Christ be in work and skill,
serving each other's need;
Christ be in thought and will,
Christ be in word and deed:
our minds be set on things above
in joy and peace, in faith and love.**

**Grant us the Spirit's strength,
teach us to walk his way;
so bring us all at length
safe to the close of day:
From hour to hour sustain and bless,
and let our song be thankfulness.**

**Now as the day begins
make it the best of days;
take from us all our sins,
guard us in all our ways:
our every step direct and guide
That Christ in all be glorified !**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with
you
and also with you.**

**We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and
receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our
sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.**

**The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed. Let us then open
ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.**

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in
thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved
our neighbours as ourselves.**

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon 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.**

Blessed is the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song we will praise our God.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Creator and Redeemer of all; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world and in your great love fashioned us in your image.

Now, through the deep waters of death, you have brought your people to new birth by raising your Son to life in triumph. May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessed be God for ever.

A&M 692

**Jesus, good above all other,
gentle child of gentle mother,
in a stable born our brother,
give us grace to persevere.**

**Jesus, cradled in a manger,
for us facing every danger,
living as a homeless stranger,
make we thee our King most dear.**

**Jesus, for thy people dying,
risen Master, death defying,
Lord in heaven, thy grace supplying,
keep us to thy presence near.**

**Jesus, who our sorrows bearest,
all our thoughts and hopes thou sharest,
thou to us the truth declarest;
help us all thy truth to hear.**

**Lord, in all our doings guide us;
Pride and hate shall ne'er divide us;
we'll go on with thee beside us,
and with joy we'll persevere.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

We keep silence

We say the Old Testament Canticle

Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever, for yours is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty.

Everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head over all.

Riches and honour come from you and you rule over all.

In your hand are power and might; yours it is to give power and strength to all.

And now we give you thanks, our God, and praise your glorious name.

For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

We sit for the first reading

The First Reading is taken 1 Kings, Chapter 19, beginning to read at the fifteenth verse (1 Kings 19, 15-16, 19 -)

The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.

So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye," he said, "and then I will come with you."

"Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?"

So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

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

We stand to say or sing the Gospel Canticle to the tune CA 503 (O Jesus I have promised)

**O bless the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us
and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
of rescue and release;
God shall fulfil the promise
to bring our people peace.**

**Now from the house of David
a child of grace is given;
a Saviour comes among us
to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald,
forerunner in the way,**

the prophet of salvation,
the messenger of Day.

Where once were fear and darkness
the sun begins to rise —
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace:
O bless our God and Saviour,
with songs that never cease! 7.6.7.6.D

Gospel Reading. *We remain standing*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (Luke 9 51-62)
Glory to you, O Lord.

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them^[b]?” But Jesus turned and rebuked them. Then he and his disciples went to another village.

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” He said to another man, “Follow me.” But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

Still another said, “I **will** follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”

⁶² Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

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

Sermon Martin. Some things in our world are extraordinarily expensive: saffron, a spice from the flower of the crocus sativus, costs around £1,000 per lb. This is partly down to scarcity and because it takes 70,000 flowers to make 1lb of saffron. Computer ink works out at around £7,000 per gallon or £875 per pint whereas champagne costs a mere £23 per pint. Computer ink is so expensive because it is allegedly so difficult to make compared to making a printer. Of course, cost and value are not the same. 10 underground parking spaces in downtown Manhattan went on sale for \$1m each back in 2014, whereas the same sized space down at the Elizabeth Harbour Terminal will set you back 85p an hour. So what is the cost of following Jesus? It depends on who you ask. The Samaritans in our gospel reading weren't even prepared to entertain the question. The two men that Jesus asked were, but their family ties came first. The cost of following Jesus outweighed the value of doing so in their own minds. Oscar Wilde famously defined a cynic as “a man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing”. We all need to keep our eyes fixed on the kingdom of God and consider its value, not its cost. This is the challenge that our new Rector will be facing if they currently live in the UK. Let's pray that we, and they, understand the true value of the kingdom of God.

We stand to say or sing the Creed (To the tune CA 163 Father Lord of all creation)

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.
8.7.8.7.D**

Prayers of Intercession: Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Lord, you rebuked your disciples for their hardness of heart and set high standards for those who would follow you. Inspire us to commit ourselves wholeheartedly to your call.

Lord, take away all prejudice and foolish pride. Give to leaders openness to work with everyone of goodwill.

Lord, your Spirit refreshes and enlivens our senses. Keep us faithful to your purposes and fill us with your presence and loving-kindness.

Lord, you know our fear and hold us in all adversity. Be with all who care for loved ones and friends, for those with dementia and all who are less mobile than they would want to be. May your peace that passes all understanding be in their heart.

Lord, may your tenderness be known to all who mourn. When our time on earth is over, gather us with all your wants to be with you for ever.

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

The Collect for the Second Sunday After Trinity: Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Parish Prayer: Lord God, we thank you that you know all our needs before we ask and that you go ahead to prepare the way for us. We pray for the person you have chosen to be our next Rector. May they respond gladly to your call. While we wait, send your Holy Spirit to help us to be patient, to build us up in faith and love, and to equip us to serve you well with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

The Lord's Prayer: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, 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.

We sing the FINAL HYMN

A&M 595

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

**Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.**

The Blessing: The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

We say the Grace together: **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.**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God

