

Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

**Sunday 13th September 2020
Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**

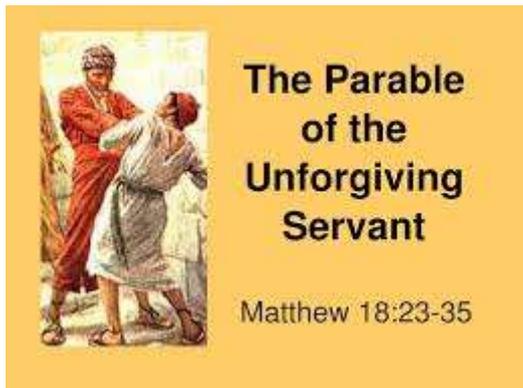
There is a theme running through today's readings on the challenging issue of forgiveness. In our reading from Genesis, Joseph is approached by the brothers who sold him into slavery and who he now meets in a spirit of forgiveness. Paul counsels the church in Rome not to be judgemental towards each other and to put themselves in the place of God. Jesus tells a parable in response to a question from Peter about whether forgiving seven times (which is more than the law might demand) is surely sufficient.

The parable turns on the contrast between just how much one person is forgiven and how little that same person is asked to and refuses to forgive. The context is made more significant by comparing the size of the debts. A king wished to settle accounts with his slaves. One slave owed him a debt of ten thousand talents. A talent was about 130 lbs. of silver and would take a labourer about fifteen years to earn. Which means that the servant owed the king about 150,000 years of labour. In other words, he would never, ever be able to pay this debt back. By contrast he in turn was owed 100 denarii. A denarius, by comparison, was worth about a day's wage, which meant that the second servant owed the first about a hundred days of labour – no small debt. But the message is clear, how could he possibly not overlook that (relatively) minor debt when he had just been forgiven an impossibly huge one? The parable closes ominously, as the unforgiving servant is handed over for punishment until he pays and Jesus warns that we, too, must forgive others or face the consequences.

But perhaps the important point of this parable is that we are not being asked to identify with the king in this story but with the servant with the massive debt who has just been forgiven so much. Which means that our challenge isn't to assume or insist that we must forgive incalculable debts, but simply to bask in the unbelievable forgiveness, acceptance, and grace that we have experienced and try, as much as we can, to live out of that. The failure of the first servant isn't simply that he won't forgive his debtor, but that he has just experienced an utterly unexpected, completely beyond-his-wildest-dreams, life-changing moment of grace and seems absolutely untouched by it. And for this reason, he lives devoid of any sense of gratitude. His whole life changed...and he didn't even notice.

Readings: Genesis 50.15-21, Romans 14.1-12

Matthew 18.21-35



Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents

was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Prayer

O God of infinite love, and mercy
help us to be open with you about our needs,
to seek your support in our trials,
to admit before you our sins,
and ever be thankful for all your goodness.

May we who know your mercy,
rejoice in your forgiveness
and, where we feel affronted, be ready to forgive others,
for the love of Jesus Christ our Saviour



Adapted from 'A New Zealand Prayer Book'

NOTICES

LINK TO LIVE SERVICE – attached is a link to our live service, which you can access before the service and set a reminder to watch <http://bit.ly/StAidans13thSept>

EVENING PRAYER – continues in church every Sunday from 4:30pm

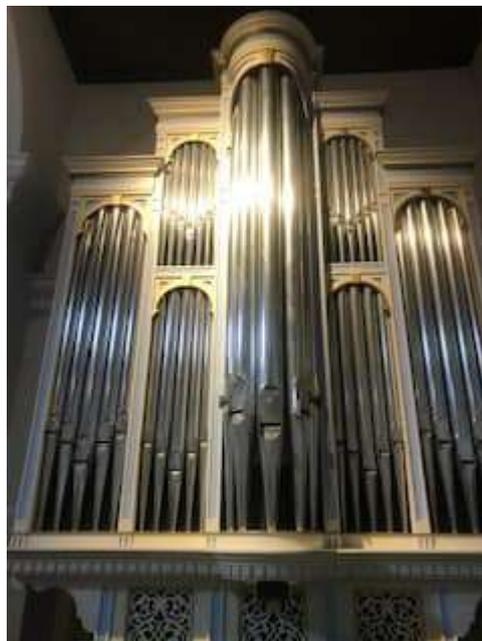
BIBLE STUDY GROUP - The Bible Study group has resumed its study of Mark's gospel. The group meets via Zoom on Monday's at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to join. Contact Ken Newitt (01434 606900 or kmnewitt@outlook.com) for further details.

AUTUMN ORGAN RECITALS – will be held at Gosforth Parish Church. Face coverings must be worn and social distancing is in place along Church of England guidelines. Numbers will be limited to 50 people. The retiring collection is cash or contactless payments. Please email the Vicar, Revd Jane Natrass, if you would like a place: natrassjane@aol.com. The details are:

Friday 25 Sept 7.30pm Phil Mills, Organist, Gosforth Parish Church

Friday 23 Oct 7.30pm Timothy Hone, Director of Music, All Saints Pavement, York

Friday 27 Nov 7.30pm Michael Haynes, Director of Music, Hexham Abbey



For Our Prayers...

We give thanks for our church family here at St Aidan's and pray for our Team Parish - for God's upholding in all that lies ahead.

We pray for God's world – in times of upheaval and conflict we pray for peace- for resolutions to tensions between nations and peoples, for all caught up in tragedy, disaster and despair.

In our St Aidan's cycle of prayer we pray for Pauline Pearson and St Columba's.

Within our church we pray for our Bible Study and prayer groups, the Start and Moving-on Courses. Within the wider community we pray for St Aidan's Community Centre and Great Park Community Centre, and their Management Committees.

We remember in our prayers Richard Page, Don Wright and Joyce Richardson along with all others who are unwell at home or in hospital.

We pray those who have died in recent days.

We remember with thanksgiving and joy our loved ones who are now with Our Father in the heavenly kingdom – Peter Moll, Ethel Harkness, James Goodlet, Ruth Hay, Susan Hollingshead, Jenny Johnson, Ellen Hall, Joan Renwick, John Havis

CONTACTS:



Church Office: 0191 236 7952

Interim Minister: Revd Peter Sinclair 217 1338, 07710017625 peter@aftersunday.org.uk

Assistant Curate (Great Park): Revd Ruth Hewett 217 0367 ruthhewett@icloud.com

Administrator/Newsletter: Janice Charlton 0191 236 7952 infostaidans@gmail.com



St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk