



**The Team Parish of Christ the King
St Aidan's Church Brunton Park**

**Sunday 21st September 2025
Trinity 14. St Matthew**

The parable set for this Sunday is among the most confusing Jesus tells. A dishonest manager seems to swindle his master, and yet is praised for his underhand dealings, before Jesus goes on to say: 'you cannot serve God and wealth.' It's hard to wrap this parable into a neat moral message, but perhaps that's the point. In a complex world of mixed motives, perhaps this parable reminds Christians to keep both their eyes and their hearts open.

Christians need open eyes to the realities of a fallen world. Sin is very much a part of how life works, and our own motives, just as those of others, are often a mix of self-interest and self-giving. As Christians we shouldn't be surprised that people are dishonest, that life isn't fair, that sometimes the bad-guy wins. We need open eyes to this reality, because Jesus surely knew the full power of sin, and came to save us from it.

But we also need open hearts. In the midst of a complex, fallen world, there are still always signs of grace. The dishonest manager forgives a debt and is restored. Even in mixed motives, God is at work, and Christians are called to have hearts that are open to God's work of grace even in the most unlikely of places. So with open eyes, and open hearts we face a fallen world, and yet proclaim the grace we have received in Christ, who forgave our debts on the cross, and grants all who trust in him the true riches of God's Kingdom.

Jeremiah 8.18-9.1

My joy is gone; grief is upon me;
my heart is sick.

Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people
from far and wide in the land:

"Is the LORD not in Zion?
Is her King not in her?"

("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,
with their foreign idols?")

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved."

For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken,
I mourn, and horror has seized me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of the daughter of my people
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of the daughter of my people!

Luke 16.1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer." Then the manager said to himself, "What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty." Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?" He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and make it eighty." And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

'Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.'

TODAY 9.30am: Trinity 14, St Matthew. Bernie Troughton leads, Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon	22 nd Sept 7.30pm : Bible Study Group on Zoom
Tues	3.30pm –5.00pm; After School Drop-Off Club
Wed	10.00am Church: BCP Midweek Eucharist
Thurs	2.00pm Community Room: Chat and Craft 7.30pm Community Room Open DCC Meeting and Discussion
Sat	10.00am Community Room Saturday Cafe
Sun	9.30am: Trinity15 Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and Mr Ken Newitt preaches

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs	2 nd Oct 2.00pm Prayer and Praise Community Room 7.30pm Men's Group Community Room
Sun	5 th Oct 9.30am Harvest Thanksgiving Service followed by breakfast made from surplus food.

NOTICES

TODAY'S SERVICE LINK <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025Trinity14>

BIBLE STUDY GROUP The Bible Study Group will meet again on Zoom at 7.30 pm on Monday 22nd September, beginning a study of Paul's letter to the Philippians. All are welcome to join us – contact Ken Newitt on 07770 480938 or kmnewitt@outlook.com for the Zoom link or for more details.

OPEN DCC MEETING AND DISCUSSION – Thursday 25th September 7.30pm

Following the input from Rev'd Emma Duff LGBT+ Chaplain, the DCC will host an open meeting for further discussion and how we want to respond. Please join us if you're able to think about our welcome of LGBT+ people (as well as others) and what that might look like.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING- The World's Biggest Coffee Morning for MacMillan Cancer Support is being held in Great Park Community Centre, on Friday 26 September from 9.30am until 12.30pm. The money raised is going to Toon Angels, which is a local charity for MacMillan. If you are able to donate cakes, and or Tombola prizes, we would be very grateful. Volunteers on the day are welcome too. Thank you, Susan and Ann.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE – Sunday 5th October followed by breakfast which will be made from surplus food provided by local supermarket. Donations of none perishable food can be brought to church during the week or on the day. All food donated will be taken to the Kenton Food Bank and the People's Kitchen.

LUNCH GROUP- will meet on Wednesday 8th October at the Rugby Club 12 o'clock for 12.30 meal. Names to Pat or Pauline if you wish to join.

LISTEN WITH YOUR HEART -Wednesday 8th October 11.00am St Mary's Church Fawdon message from Rev'd Geoff Miller 'We are organising this little event in response to some people wondering how they could better pray for the situation in Palestine/Israel. The videos speak for themselves but are very simple presentations by Palestinian and Israeli parents who have lost children in the conflict and are trying to work together to build hope. They are very powerful. I have accessed them from the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle's Justice and Peace group and show them with their permission.

Living on God's Good Earth: September

Brewing a fairer world

Did you know that in Britain we drink over 100 million cups of tea every day? It might be the world's most popular drink after water – but the people who grow our tea leaves rarely get a fair price for their labour. Fairtrade fortnight falls this month, and the Fairtrade Foundation are asking us to focus on the humble teabag, choosing fairtrade tea where we can and pushing the UK government to ensure a fair future for the humble brew. Find out more about at

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/do-it-fair/>

SUNDAY SERMON'S

For anyone who would like one, written copies of the Sunday sermon are available from the preacher on request. Please contact either Gerard, or the preacher of the day, to be sent a copy

For the church Mark Edwards and St Cuthbert's and St Matthew's. St Columba's and their future incumbent Rev'd Ruth Stradling.

For the community Saturday Café, Men's Group, Thursday Groups. Brunton Park Medical Centre and local businesses. St Aidan's Community Centre and Great Park Community centre, groups meeting in the church and community room.

For the world – For refugees and recent arrivals in our community who are looking for safety and peace.

For those in need – Esther Wooler, Martin Seaton, Sue Bates, Sheila Lonie, Christine Crompton, Charlie Bennett, Pat Lawson, Lindsay Miller, Marion Newitt

For those who have died –and on their anniversaries William Atkinson, Susan Hollingshead, Jenny Johnson, Ellen Hall, Jean Renwick, John Havis, Ann Clinton, Elsie Royce, Sheila Fawcett.



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