

REFLECTION - '25th Sunday in Ordinary Time'

"You go into the vineyard too"

The call to the vineyard (to the Church), through God's gift of faith and the sacrament of baptism, is a gift for which we can never sufficiently thank God. If we remain in the vineyard and labour earnestly, that is, if we cooperate with the actual graces God is continually giving us, we are assured of reaching heaven when our earthly days are ended. The work we have to do in God's vineyard is the fulfilling of the duties of our state in life. By carrying out these duties faithfully we are doing the will of God and preparing for heaven. The greater part of our day and indeed of our life, will be taken up with tasks of themselves worldly, but these tasks when done in the state of grace and with the intention of honouring God, have a supernatural value. For this we have to thank God for His goodness and generosity.

He could have made the attainment of heaven so much more difficult. He could have demanded extraordinary mortifications and renunciations and the reward (heaven) would still be exceedingly great. Instead He allows us to live our everyday life, to enjoy the love and friendship of our family and friends, to satisfy the natural desires of our bodies, within the commandments, and yet to merit a supernatural reward while so doing. As He tells us through St. Paul: "whether you eat or drink or whatever else you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10 : 31)."

Looking back on our past life, how many years have we really given to God since we came to the age of reason? Those school years, the time spent learning a trade or profession, the weeks, months, years working in an office or factory or farm, the hours among the pots and pans in the kitchen — have we served God faithfully in all of this, or has it all lacked the right intention?

If there was a poor intention then do not despair, we may have been "idle" all that time, but today's parable, should give us new hope and courage. It may be the sixth or the ninth or even the eleventh hour of our life but we can still serve God if we respond to his call and set to work diligently in His vineyard. If we put our conscience right with God today and resolve to be loyal to Him from now on He will be as generous to us, as the parable promises.



FORWARDINFAITH

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Arrangements for Banns, Holy Matrimony & Baptisms:

May be made by contacting Fr Ross on 01908 562148

Confessions: May be made after Masses or by appointment.

Parish Website: www.parishstonystratfordcalverton.com

To Hire the Parish Hall: 'phone Lesley Salter on 01908 567404

 **The Society**
under the patronage of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda



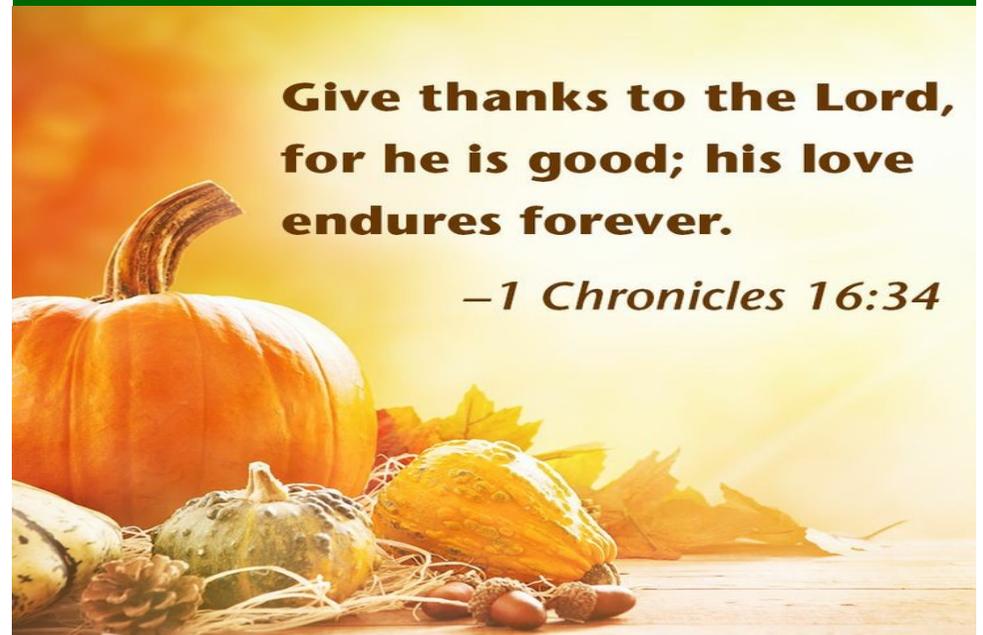
The Parish of
**STONY
STRATFORD**
with
CALVERTON

St Mary & St Giles, Stony Stratford
with All Saints, Calverton

THE TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
HARVEST THANKSGIVING
24th September AD 2017

**Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good; his love
endures forever.**

—1 Chronicles 16:34



Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the example of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the "apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)

INFORMATION

The Order of Mass is on the laminated card. The references to the Scripture Readings, which may be either listened to or followed in the Bibles provided, along with the Psalm and the Prayer of the Faithful are also included in this Sheet. Hymns are unannounced but are indicated on the boards towards the front of the Nave.

AA Large Print Orders of Service are available at St Mary & St Giles. Please ask a Sidesman for a copy.



A Loop System is in operation at St Mary & St Giles - please set hearing aids to the "T" position.



Access for the Disabled at St Mary & St Giles is via the path on the north side of the church. **At All Saints** it is via the South Porch.



Gluten-Free Hosts: if you are on a Gluten-Free diet and would like a Gluten-Free Host when you receive Holy Communion please mention this before Mass to one of the Sidesmen who will arrange this for you. Please make yourself known to the Parish Priest so that he is aware of your need.



Collections: for the continuing mission of Christ are taken while the altar and gifts of bread and wine are being prepared. If you are a visitor and a taxpayer and would like to make a donation please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided at the end of each row - please fill in your details. This enables us to reclaim, from the Inland Revenue, 25p for every £1 donated.



We observe a period of quiet prayer and reflection before the celebration of Mass, between the end of the Organ Voluntary and the Sacristy Bell being rung, in order that we may be better prepared to worship almighty God.

Reception of Holy Communion: All Baptised and Confirmed Christians are encouraged to receive Holy Communion. If you are unwell or uncertain about receiving the Precious Blood please do still receive the Host. Our Chalice Assistants are not authorised to permit the intincting (dipping) of the Host.

 Please join us at the back of church for tea or coffee after Mass. A priest will be near the main door, shortly after the end of Mass, should you need to talk with one.

Please take this Service Sheet home with you and use as part of your devotions during the week.

At St Mary & St Giles this week:

Sidesmen	Team 4
Serving Team:	Team 1
Offertory bearers:	Jean Hulley
Church Gardeners:	Team 2
Church Cleaners	Team 4

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 116

Weekday Worshipping Numbers W/E 16/9 - 24

Prayer Thought:

Welcome home. God's house is where we belong. Let God's peace envelop you. The finger of God is here because Jesus is with us. Let the word of God find us ready listeners. All is grace here. Faith kindles faith and the food of eternal life is given for our nourishment. The Mass is a big thank you to our loving and merciful Father.

The Collect

O 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD (SIT)

The First Reading Isaiah 55:6-9

Reader at SMSG: John Hickman
Reader at All Saints: -

(Old Testament Page 623 in the Bibles)
God reminds us of his holiness and wisdom through the mouth of an Old Testament prophet. His ways are not our ways. We require faith to understand his wisdom.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 145)

R/. The Lord is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured. ®

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. ®

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds.

He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. ®

The Second Reading

Philippians 1:20-24,27

such repairs would not require a faculty. The PCC agreed to this work being put in hand and the Churchwardens would be pleased to be informed of any reputable plumbers whose work is known to the Parish Family.

The PCC examined the accounts and was pleased to note that Planned Giving was up £2165 on the year to date ☺

The PCC agreed to reappoint two School Governors for a further term of Office

The PCC noted that the Property Register still needed to be completed at All Saints.

In its discussion of Children's Ministry Matters the PCC agreed to the Diocese's recommendation of a change of company for DBS checks, noted that the Children's Policy was up to date and received a school report from the Headteacher, Mr Salter.

The Rector reported that the Diocesan Sabbatical Committee and the Archdeacon had agreed that he should take a sabbatical next year. This will run from February 9th through to May 16th. The Rector also led a discussion with the PCC on a letter he was to write to the Bishop of Oxford regarding the proposed Mission Post for the Western Expansion Area in the Parish. Members agreed to pray and consider this and let him have their suggestions for inclusion in the letter by the end of this week. The Rector also reported that the Diocesan Board of Education was considering how it could best place a bid for the Secondary School on the Western Expansion Area to be a CoFE School. The Rector also discussed with the PCC the latest developments at the recent meeting of the General Synod, and some of the issues arising from that with regard to pastoral care.

The PCC next meets on the 16th November at which meeting it will make arrangements for the Vestry and Annual Parochial Meetings to be held in 2018.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
HARVEST THANKSGIVING

8:30am Morning Prayer at St Mary & St Giles
9:30am **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**
12:00n Holy Baptism: William Catterall
6:00pm **EVENSONG at All Saints**
followed by auction of produce & a Bring & Share Harvest Supper

Intention: Our Parish

Monday: Feria

9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in the Parish Hall

8:00pm Bellringing Practice

Pray for: the Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

Tuesday: Ss Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs

10:30am **Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'**

Pray for: those facing Martyrdom today

Wednesday: St Vincent de Paul, Priest

6:30pm Handbell Ringing at SMSG School

7:15pm The Band Practice at SMSG School

7:30pm **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**

Pray for: all Parish Priests

Thursday: St Wenceslaus, Martyr

10:30am **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**

2:00pm Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

7:00pm Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible
Both sessions at the Rectory

Pray for: the Church in Hungary

Friday: Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels

9:30am **MSG School Harvest Mass at St Mary & St Giles Church**

2:00pm Walsingham Cell Group Meets at St Mary & St Giles Church

7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Pray for: Angelic Assistance

Saturday: St Jerome, Priest & Doctor

Pray for: Biblical Scholars & Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: 26th SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30am Morning Prayer at St Mary & St Giles

9:30am **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**

11:00am **FAMILY MASS at All Saints**

Intention: Our Parish

Readings next Sunday:

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18: 25-28

Psalm: 25 (part)

2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32

Lights' Switch-On Day - Christmas Fayre: is only 10 weeks away! Posters are available from today, and the list for offers of help is also posted on the free-standing noticeboard at St Mary & St Giles. Offers of small or sliceable cakes as well as mince pies etc would be most appreciated. Suitable unwanted books would also be appreciated.

On the Friday afternoon prior to the day after the lunchtime concert, Fr Ross will, as usual, be leading the working party that moves the seating around in church and lays out the tables for the stalls etc. Offers of help would be much appreciated, as would offers of help on the Saturday at 5pm to set the church ready for worship the next day. *Thank you.*

Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints: following this year's very good Fete at All Saints, it has been decided to hold a Christmas Tree Festival from Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th December. We have already had commitments to having a tree in the church - and that is even before launching a publicity drive, which will take place within the next week. During the Festival refreshments will be served and opportunities taken to promote the Christian Faith. Please pray for the success of this new venture and for all those involved. If you can help in any way please see Jill Barby.

Parochial Church Council News: The PCC met on Wednesday evening of last week and the following matters were discussed/decided:
The last remaining report required for the Faculty Application for the recasting of the bells and the replacement of the bell-frame at All Saints had now been received. It was agreed that the Rector should consult with the Architect over the 'Statement of Significance' and the 'Statement of Need' that the PCC need to submit as part of the Faculty Application, and approval of these statements was devolved by the PCC to the All

Saints Fabric Committee.
The PCC noted that the Rector had highlighted the remaining items in the 'Greater Access Project at St Mary & St Giles in the Newsletter, and reiterated its hope that fundraising would make it possible for it to commission the disabled access and gallery extension, for which Faculty had been granted, in 2018.

The Church noticeboards for each of our Parish Churches had arrived, (the board at All Saints was erected yesterday lunchtime), and Messrs Odells had kindly agreed with the Rector to erect the board at St Mary & St Giles.

The removal of the moss at the lychgate at St Mary & St Giles requires it to be treated with mosskiller first. The Rector, Mr Salter and Mr Mullins agreed to attend to the erection of the component parts of the scaffolding tower to make this possible.

It was agreed that the Rector obtain quotations for a full survey and burial plan of All Saints Churchyard. The PCC expressed its gratitude to Mr Steve Thompson for his hard work in compiling the survey of the Churchyard at St Mary & St Giles.

Concern had been expressed at a previous meeting about the rusted pipes to the radiators in the chancel at St Mary & St Giles. A quotation had been received which suggested that both radiators needed to be replaced with what were essentially domestic radiators, as it was not possible simply to replace the pipes feeding the radiators. That quotation included the removal of 'all debris.' However, the Rector discovered that the Column Radiators such as those existing in the chancel were fetching over £549 each online, and in consultation with the Secretary to the DAC obtained advice from a reputed heating consultant free of charge. He informed the Rector that the existing radiators were fine and that any reputable plumber would be able to replace the pipes feeding the radiators. The DAC had subsequently advised that

Reader at SMSG: Shirley Scrutton

(New Testament Page 165 in the Bibles) we begin a series of readings from an important letter of Paul the apostle, that is, the letter to the Philippians. The readings will continue for the next three Sundays. In today's reading, the apostle speaks of the one thing necessary - union with Christ through a true Christian life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may listen to the words of your Son. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel *Matthew 20:1-16*

(New Testament Page 18 in the Bibles) we listen to Christ's parable on the workers in the vineyard. God in his goodness has called us all to eternal life. Let us be thankful for this gift.

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Intercessor at SMSG: Fr Tunji)

Priest: In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Intercessor: O God, the creator and preserver of all, we pray for people in every kind of need; make your ways known on earth, your saving health among all nations.

V/. Lord, in your mercy

R/. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the good estate of the catholic Church.....; guide and govern us by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life.

We commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body or estate.. Fiddy Abraham, Polly Barclay, Shirley Brown, Lesley, Ray Coats, Steve Cooper, Baby Ferguson, Peter Fulcher, Felix Hail-

stone, Russell Herbert, Jane Holman, Miranda, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Gum and Eva Newnham, Pete, Alan Shaw, Stacey, Lionel Stobie, Susan, Eric, Wendy...; comfort and relieve them in their need, give them patience in their sufferings, and bring good out of all their afflictions.

We remember those who have gone before us in the peace of Christ... Joan Brown... and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week, amongst them... **24th** Thomas Read; **26th** Susan Whelan, Gweneth Stock; **28th** Hannah Bull, Emily Ransley, Anne Morgan; **29th** Vernon Haysman, Mary Parkinson; **30th** Jennifer Barford... and we give you praise for all your faithful ones, with whom we rejoice in the communion of saints.

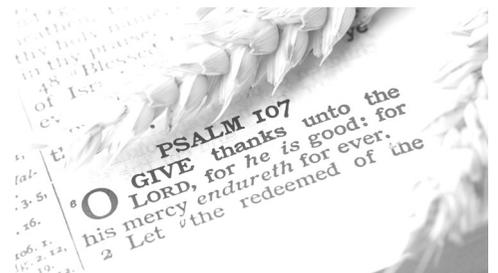
☒ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Priest: God our Father, these are the prayers of your children who are beloved to you in your Son. We present them to you in full joy and confidence through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Communion Reflection:

Holy Communion is always the sign of God's generosity. As we thank God for all his gifts, we ask that we might live the communion we share: *Lord, teach us to be generous, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to think of wounds, to work and look for no reward, except that of knowing that we are doing your holy will.*



PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

Harvest Thanksgiving: today we observe Harvest Thanksgiving with the Parish Mass being at St Mary & St Giles, and with Evensong this evening at All Saints following which there will be a Bring & Share Supper and auction of produce.

This year we are extending this observance with the School holding it's annual Harvest Thanksgiving Mass in church on Friday on the Feast of the Archangels: Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael. Then next Sunday, while Sunday's in Ordinary Time, take precedence the 1st of October is the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels. Harvest Thanksgiving is always observed around this time because of the link between the Harvest and the Scriptures foretelling the Angels involvement in the ingathering (the harvest) of souls at the end of time. To reflect this we shall be singing traditional Harvest Hymns this morning and at Evensong, and then next Sunday have a number of those wonderful hymns which relate the Church's teaching on the Angels and how they serve God and us.

Given this extended Harvest period, we have an opportunity to collect more tinned and packet foods for the MK Foodbank, which will be our Harvest Thanksgiving cause this year. Gifts may be brought to either of our Parish Churches.

Rosary Group (Walsingham Cell): The first meeting will take place this Friday 29th September at 2.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Mary & St Giles. This day is also the Feast of SS. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael which makes it a really appropriate celebration to mark our first meeting. The group is for those who interested in learning how to pray the Mysteries of the Rosary and those who use this devotion regularly as part of their own prayer life. Spare rosar-

ies will be available for those who do not have their own but would like to explore praying the Rosary. It is hoped that there will be enough interest to form our own Walsingham Cell Group. Several people have asked about an evening group and this will take place on the first Tuesday of each month. The group will meet in the Rectory starting at 7.30pm. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd October. If anyone would like any further information then please speak to Sister Janet who will be leading both groups.

Weekend Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2018: The last three year's pilgrimages have brought many blessings to those who participated in them, and each year we seem to attract a number of 'First-Time Pilgrims,' which is a wonderful thing. We are now taking bookings for next year's Pilgrimage; the dates for which are: Friday 17th - Sunday 19th August. Booking Forms are available at the back of each of our Parish Churches.

Fr Ross will be giving a DVD Presentation on Walsingham. In the Parish Hall at 8:00pm on Tuesday 3rd October. If you have never been to Walsingham or simply want to enjoy a reminder of your own Pilgrimages then this is very much for you.

Church Diaries 2018: Once again the supplier of the Church Diaries we switched to last year has printed a large quantity of diaries for us.. As with last year we have sufficient for us to take copies away to give to family and friends. Copies are to be found in both our Parish Churches.

Greater Access Project at St Mary & St Giles: As previously reported the Chancellor granted the Faculty for the Disabled access, Gallery Extension, redecoration and new seating Project. While we were not at the stage of being able to

commission the work, we needed the Faculty in order to be able to apply for grants, as most grant-making bodies will not give grants unless projects have all the necessary approval. Now that the Pipe Organ Refurbishment is complete we shall be turning our efforts towards the much anticipated first phase of this project: the Disabled Access and Gallery Extension. Whilst we still need to raise monies towards the total cost (which is between £90,000 and £100,000) the PCC hopes, provided monies become available, to be able to commission this work next year.

The most expensive part of the whole project will be the redecoration of the Church - likely to cost over £100,000. —this includes insulation above the nave and chancel ceiling, which will help make the building warmer and improve the longevity of the redecoration of the ceiling. You may have noticed the square patterned effect that emerges over time on the ceiling (much more pronounced in the chancel - this is caused by local conditions; namely the high water table resulting in greater levels of damp. This damp penetrates the areas between the fretwork frame to which the plaster and lathe is affixed to leading to the darker square patches. The insulation should help prevent this occurring for a much greater period.

The final part of the project will be the reseating of the Nave with the light-oak chairs previously shown to everyone, and the stripping and re-staining in light oak of the front of Nave Responds, now agreed as part of the Faculty Consent. The type of Chairs chosen are increasingly seen in Cathedrals and major Parish Churches, and are designed to cope with greater use and to last for at least a century. This part of the Project is unlikely to attract grants, and

so we shall need to start a special fund within the Parish Accounts for donations towards the new chairs and the proceeds of any specific fundraising efforts. To that end donations of the cost of a chair (approx. £245) or more than one in memory of a loved one will be one way in which we might be able to raise the funds - as their may be wider interest in having loved ones commemorated in this way from a wider area than the parish.

The Rector, Churchwardens and PCC would very much appreciate fundraising ideas and also to be informed of any grant-making organisations that you know of.

All Saints & All Souls: All Saints Day will be observed at All Saints Church at 7:30pm on Wednesday 1st November with a Sung Mass.

All Souls Day (Thursday 2nd November) will, as is customary have three celebrations of Mass:

9:30am Low Mass at St Mary & St Giles

11:00am Low Mass at All Saints

7:30pm Sung Mass at St Mary & St Giles

Pious Lists are now posted in each church. For the Low Masses these lists are blank and those intending to participate in these Celebrations are asked to append the names of loved ones to these lists. The list for the 7:30pm Mass already has many names - please check to see that the names of your loved ones are included and place a tick to the right of their names. If there are additional names to be included please append these (IN CAPITALS) to the extra blank sheet. Please do not add any additional names to the printed list of names, as there is insufficient space, and in previous year's the Rector has struggled to decipher names written over. *Thank you.*