

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Harvest Festival



Services for this Sunday

8.00am	Traditional Communion at Findon Church
9.30am	Harvest Festival at Findon Church
10.00	Harvest Festival at Patching Church
8pm	Compline – <i>Zoom service</i>

Tuesday:

10.00am	Communion at Findon Church
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There is social distancing in all 3 Churches –

Please remember your face masks and to sanitise your hands when going in and again when coming out.

Church Services are currently not affected by the latest changes and advice from the Government.

We welcome Rev. Nancy Ford to the Findon Harvest Festival
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Thank you to those who have decorated our Churches so beautifully for our Harvest Services.

*Congratulations to Carole and Richard Thomas
on the safe arrival of their first grandchild*



Collect



Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible reading for this Sunday: Matt 20: 1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. And after agreeing with the workers for the standard wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When it was about nine o’clock in the morning, he went out again and saw others standing around in the marketplace without work. He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and I will give you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and three o’clock that afternoon, he did the same thing. And about five o’clock that afternoon he went out and found others standing around, and said to them, ‘Why are you standing here all day without work?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go and work in the vineyard too.’ When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages starting with the last hired until the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each received a full day’s pay. And when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each one also received the standard wage. When they received it, they began to complain against the landowner, saying, ‘These last fellows worked one hour, and you have made them equal to us who bore the hardship and burning heat of the day.’ And the landowner replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am not treating you unfairly. Didn’t you agree with me to work for the standard wage? Take what is yours and go. I want to give to this last man the same as I gave to you. Am I not permitted to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

Reflection on the reading:

This Sunday we celebrate God’s bountiful goodness to us at our annual Harvest Festival services, which take place at Findon and Patching churches. It is very appropriate therefore that our gospel reading for this Sunday is a parable about the hiring of workers for a grape harvest. Jesus spoke about the urgency of bringing in God’s people into the kingdom of God as a harvest. Here the landowner goes to the marketplace throughout the day to look for yet more workers, such was the urgency of the task. When it comes to paying the workers, we automatically think in terms of reward for service. So it seems unfair that those the landowner hired at the end of the day should get the same wages as those who have toiled in the heat throughout the day. But those employed last were those overlooked by other landowners as not the sort of workers they wanted, perhaps the elderly or less able (or the outcasts,

as in tax collectors and sinners). In this parable the landowner can be interpreted as a God who loves all his children equally and gives each what they need out of grace. (The usual days wage would have meant they could feed their family). It is a reminder that we owe God everything and could never begin to repay his kindness and goodness to us.

A Prayer: Father, thank you for all the good things you give us. Help us to be good stewards of these bountiful gifts and to share with those in need. **Amen.**

Other readings for today: Jonah 3.10 – 4.end; Ps 145: 1-8; Phil 1: 21-end

Post Communion prayer:

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Weekly Readings:

Monday: Matt 9: 9-13

Tuesday: Prov 21: 1-6, 10-13; Ps 119: 1-8; Luke 8: 19-21

Wednesday: Luke 9: 1-6

Thursday: Luke 9: 7-9

Friday: Luke 9: 18-22

Saturday: Luke 9: 43b-45

Sunday: Ezek. 18: 1-4, 25-end; Ps 25: 1-8; Phil. 2: 1-13; Matt. 21: 23-32

Please remember in your prayers:

- Our children and young people; staff from our schools and preschool; our work with children and young people.
- Those in Northview Terrace, Clapham Close and Lee Farm.
- **The sick and those who care for them** including: Dilys Allcorn, Julie Brooks, John Childs, Anna Davison, Matthew Moppett, Teresa Street, Ann and Richard Currer-Briggs, Mabel Carson, Jeremy, Jill Juster.

All activities and groups cancelled until further notice.

Following Helena's Licensing on 5 May, Helena's Induction will take place on Sunday 25 October in Findon Church at 9.30am. Everyone very welcome.

If you do not normally attend Church, but would like to attend the Induction, please let us know so that we can make sure sufficient safe seats are available.

We are hoping that a dropdown screen and fixed projector will soon be installed in Findon Church, giving us more flexibility in presenting information. A generous member of our Congregation has contributed half of the cost, but if anyone feels able to make a contribution, the PCC would be very grateful. Thank you.

Saturday 3rd Oct. – Working Party at Clapham Church, 9.30 – 12.00.

Come and join your neighbours for a community event implementing the 'Rule of 6' – please see poster displayed in the Churches for more details.

Harvest Festival at Clapham will take place on **Sunday 4 October at 10.00am**, supporting Littlehampton Food Bank. *Donations of tins/packaged goods will be greatly appreciated*

All Souls

We welcome you to join us at our All Souls Service in Findon Church on **Sunday 1st November at 4.00pm**. If you have a departed loved one you would like included in that Service, please write their name on the list at the back of the Church. (Anybody whose funeral we have taken in the last two years is automatically included on the list).



Please visit our Facebook page:
Parish of Findon, Clapham & Patching

Contributions for pew sheet notices are invited to be submitted to the Rectory by 10.00am on Friday: findoncprectory@gmail.com, 873601.