

Anglican Parish Beverley/Brookton

St. Mark's St. Paul's St. Mary's St. John in the Wilderness

Our Parish News

..... our HOPE is in CHRIST

Issue # 8 2021

Telephone contact : Beverley 0484 849 159 or 0419194420

Brookton : 9642 1373 or 9642 2357

For further details go to :

www.beverleybrooktonanglicanparish.org

Welcome to Rev Philip as our Parish Priest

Welcome Events:

Rev Philip's Commissioning Service at York Anglican Church on Monday the 26th July 2021 at 6.30pm

Beverley Welcome Service at St Mary's Church on Tuesday the 27th July at 6.30pm

Brookton Welcome Service at St Mark's Church on Wednesday the 28th July at 6.30pm

St Mary's Church Restoration Project : Information morning at St Mary's on the 24th August 2021 10.00am check web site for details.

Fund Raiser - Devonshire Teas available \$5.00

Prayer Matters

Luke 11:1-13 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

So He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us day by day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one."

And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? 8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

One thing, Jesus did regularly, was spend time in prayer with His Father. This is such an important aspect of the life of faith and certainly something we should all do on a daily basis. So often, very early in the morning or late into the evening, the Gospels record that Jesus went off to a quiet place to pray. I have no doubt, it was during these prayer times, Jesus, was not only refreshed but heard from His Father as well. What I find interesting about today's Scripture, is how long it took before the Disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. It is not as though they didn't see Him regularly having a quiet time with His Father. I wonder if Jesus modelled how to pray and then waited until the Disciples recognised there was something missing in their lives ~ prayer. They then asked Jesus to teach them and received this beautiful pattern of prayer.

I believe there are at least three things we can learn from today's Scripture:

1. Prayer is to be brief and focused. (Long prayers are no more effective than short prayers which are 'to the point.')
2. We need to be persistent in prayer as we see in the story of the man being awakened by his friend.

3. We are to pray expecting an answer from God. Just as the 'good father' would give good gifts to his children, so too, our Heavenly Father will do the same. In fact, in the second story, Jesus focuses specifically on the Holy Spirit. So, how should we pray? Firstly, we need to focus on the person we are praying to ~ our Heavenly Father ~ and not on the prayer itself. If we think about prayer, as a conversation with God, then we don't need to 'pray hard,' as prayer doesn't effect change ~ our Heavenly Father does! Prayer is simply connecting with our Heavenly Father, who is always available for us. In my experience, some of the most profound prayers come out of a heart focused on God and may only consist of a few words. Jesus taught us, we can call God, 'Abba' (Daddy) or 'Father' and that we can talk to Him about anything, as we would a loving Father. As we hear in the last story – our earthly fathers would not give us a stone instead of bread or a serpent instead of fish and if this is the case with earthly fathers, then how much more will our Heavenly Father want to bless us.

Secondly, we need to recognise the holiness of God whom we are praying to. As Jesus said in the Lord's Prayer – [Hallowed be your name](#). Holiness defines the person of God and we should express our praise and love for Him as we pray. As we celebrate whom our Heavenly Father is and all He has done for us, it is easy to say 'Halleluiah' or 'Praise the Lord!' (Which is what Halleluiah means.) The Scriptures tell us ~ ['The joy of the Lord is our strength,' 'God dwells in the praises of His people,'](#) or even ['a merry heart is good medicine.'](#) So, praising God is not only a good practice to have, but it helps us as well.

Thirdly, we need to acknowledge God, as King over all creation. When Jesus says, [Your Kingdom come, Your will be done](#), He is reminding us of God's reign and rule. We are doing two things when we pray these words. Firstly, we are asking for the Kingdom of God to become part of our everyday. Secondly, we are asking for God's Sovereign will to be enacted on this earth and in our lives. I believe we are also asking God if we can be a part of building His Kingdom on this Earth.

Fourthly, when we say, ['Give us this day our daily bread,'](#) we are asking God to supply our daily needs. We are also acknowledging our absolute dependence on Him to supply what we need. I think 'daily bread' is far more than 'just food!' I believe it is about suppling what we need to be fully human as well. Food and clothing, shelter, friends, family – all the things necessary for us to function as a fully integrated person. Fifthly, we are sinners in need of a Saviour and in need of forgiveness. As we lead our daily lives, we commit sins of omission ~ things that we don't do that we should, and sins of commission ~where we do things that we shouldn't! When we pray, ['Forgive us our sins,'](#) we are acknowledging the times we are at fault and recognising that, through the blood of Jesus shed on the Cross, we are forgiven. There is a second part to that prayer and that is about forgiving others who have hurt us as well. This is often a challenge but, in forgiving, we are freed from the hurt and pain we would carry if we had not forgiven. This does not mean the other person may not suffer consequences for what they did, it just means we are freed from being connected to them.

Finally, in this prayer, we are encouraged to ask God to keep us from temptation. Paul had this to say in [1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.](#) In a way, we are saying to God, help me to not fail you as often as I did. Show me the way I can avoid the things that will pull me down and separate me from you, even if for a moment. The world is full of physical and spiritual temptations but, in God's strength and through His leading and guiding, we can walk with confidence through the greatest challenges that we may face.

Prayer is at the heart of our life of faith and, through this we engage with our Heavenly Father. Through prayer, we can talk and listen to God and, in this way, develop a greater sense of meaning and purpose for our lives. As we pray, we draw closer to God and deepen our friendship with Him. We also engage more closely with Him, as He pours His Holy Spirit into our hearts and minds. How blessed are we, dear Readers, that the Creator of everything, wants a relationship with us and chooses to respond to us when we pray!

2 Corinthians 13:11-14 Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

By Richard Harris former Rector of our Parish.

News : We held a 40 Day Prayer Challenge evening course in both Beverley and Brookton. Both were well received and attended. Prayer is a journey and as we learn to pray every day our journey becomes light as we lift everything to God and lay our troubles and concerns for our family and friends at our Lord's feet. Prayer Matters !!

St Mary's Beverley Restoration Fund Raiser Gospel Concert to be held on the 9th October at St Mary's. Visiting singers will fill the Church with beautiful Gospel music. Invite all your friends and neighbours for this fantastic fund raising event. Watch the web site for details.

St Mark's Brookton annual Fete to be held on the 6th November 2021. Please drop off donations and produce for sale just prior to the day. Invite your family and friends to share in the famous Devonshire Teas available. Sales start 9.00am. For further information call Jan on 0427 426 006

Check the web site for Service times and other coming events.

"Though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come; it will not be over due a single day."

Habakkuk 2:3

" The kind of preparation you need depends on what you are being called to do and the season in life at the time. If you have something in your heart that you believe you are supposed to do but are unable to do it now, don't let that discourage you. Let your dreams incubate in your heart until they manifest. Prayer opens up the door for God to work in our lives, situations and the lives of our loved ones. Let God be your partner in each situation".