

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 # 9 2022

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For further details go to :

www.beverleybrooktonanglicanparish.org

All are Welcome

Events: CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH at BEVERLEY TOWN HALL 11.00am to 2pm
A free event for all. Music, carols, quiz and games, delicious food and good
company. Carols at St Mark's Church 12th December at 8.30am

Bible studies at St Mary's and St Mark's, check web site for details.

Mid week Services and combined Services with York and Quairading, check
web site for up to date details.

A Christmas contribution from Richard Harris, former Rector of our Parish :

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me!

Luke 4:16-21 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

As I come to the end, of writing these daily Devotions, I thought I would look at this wonderful Scripture, which Jesus read in His Hometown Synagogue in Nazareth. It is a significant reading, because it sets out Jesus’ expectations of what His ministry is going to look like, going forward. It is also important for us, today, for a number of reasons... I am sure it would have been wonderful for His family, when He was asked to speak in the Synagogue. Certainly, Sabbath attendance in the Synagogue, was very much a part of His weekly practice. As Luke records: **So, He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.** Because most Synagogues, at this point in history, did not have a paid, full time Rabbi, the practice was to ask a visiting Rabbi and, what better person, than a Rabbi who had grown up there! No doubt, there were also stories being told about Him as well, as He had already begun to visit and preach around the Galilee. (Although He hadn’t yet called any Disciples, as far as Luke was concerned.)

It is most likely, the people in the Synagogue ~ and especially the elders, would have wanted to know His credentials, as a Rabbi. We are not told whether or not, Jesus ever studied under a Rabbi and, I imagine, that would have been most unlikely anyway. So, in a powerful way, Jesus not only gives His credentials, but also sets out His plans for the future... He takes a passage from Isaiah 61:1-2 and applies it to Himself. As He said, after He had finished reading and sat down to speak: **“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”** I would imagine, after the first ‘gasp’ from some people, you would have heard a pin drop! However, it was vital for Jesus’ ongoing Ministry, that the people realise He was the fulfilment of the Scriptures and also how, Prophetic words, like these, from Isaiah, applied to Him...

After the shock of His statement, the people responded with gracious words and then ~ **‘Is not this Joseph’s son?’** Jesus’ response to this, was to quote a proverb ~ **“You will surely say this proverb to Me, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.’”** But He knew, in reality, they would not accept His ministry, because He was from there. It is amazing how, despite what

they heard from Jesus, they could not get beyond the fact that 'He was from Nazareth!' What was wonderful, when Jesus quoted Isaiah, was that He spoke in the 'present tense.' These were not 'lifeless words' from a Prophet, who died more than 700 years before. These were Prophetic Words of God, which not only applied to Jesus, but to all who received the Holy Spirit and walked in obedience to Him. Sadly, despite what He said, they tried to throw Him off a cliff! We too can see God's power touching and changing lives, not because of us, but because God is faithful and continues to act on His word today!

What I find so sad, Dear Readers, is there is no mention, in the Gospels, of Jesus ever returning to Nazareth. I say 'sad,' because their rejection of Him had consequences for the town, in that they missed out on a powerful move of God. Capernaum became His 'base of operations,' and it is from there, that He began to call His Disciples... He acted out the words of Isaiah ~ preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, giving freedom to the oppressed and showing the presence and the power of God, in all He did! The good news for us is that Jesus is still here today, offering the same Good News to all who will listen. We have a choice, we can hear His words, take them to heart and respond or, like those in Nazareth, we can say 'Is not this Joseph's son' and reject Him.

The choice is ours to make each and every day...

[Romans 16:25-27](#) Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Be Blessed, Dear Friends...

[Paul Wilbur - Let The Weight Of Your Glory Fall - Lyrics - YouTube](#)

Today's readings are 1 Corinthians 9-11

Blessings

Warm wishes and Blessings for the coming year.

May the Lord be your guiding light.

[Please check our web site for Service times and other coming events.](#)
