

The Lighthouse



‘Bridge over troubled waters.’

The reading for Trinity 14 is Matthew chapter 18 verses 21–35

Dear Friends. Greetings! Just had the car serviced today – drove to King’s Lynn and back and noticed 43 of the cars I passed had an ‘07’ plate. I have a thing about numbers! In Manchester the bus route 7 is between Stockport Mersey Square and Ashton under Lyne, whereas bus route 70 is from Salford Quays [by the Lowry Gallery] to Clifton Junction. Most school children in Key Stage 2 should be able to tell you that 7×7 is 49, and some could work out that 70×7 is 490.

When we read the number 7 in scripture it ought to set us thinking about things being complete. [1] 7 days = 1 week. [2] Genesis 7 verse 2 tells us that 7 pairs of each clean animal were in the ark. [3] The Israelites are told not to sacrifice an animal until it is at least 7 days old. [4] Naaman [2 Kings 2 v10] is commanded to bathe in the Jordan river 7 times to be cleansed. [5] Joshua and the Children of Israel were told by God to walk around the outside of the city walls for 7 days, circle it 7 times on the seventh day, then to have priests blow 7 trumpets before the walls came crashing down. [6] Jesus says He is the ‘I Am’ seven times in Matthew. [7] Jesus tells His followers to forgive those who wrong you seventy times seven times.

In Matthew 18 v 21 Peter came to Jesus and asked “Lord how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” We are still with the theme of forgiveness. We always are! I’m still thinking about the wooden bridge that Adrian told us about last week. Brilliant talk. Peter is really saying how few times could he forgive his brother. Is it a Christian brother in a church fellowship sense, or is it Andrew? To Peter, forgiving 7 times seemed OK. Based on the rabbis’ reckoning on forgiving up to three times, Peter was on a double plus one of good measure! But Jesus blew Peter’s maths out of the water – Wrong, “not 7 times, but seventy-seven times”, better read as 70×7 . Jesus is not setting a maths test – look at what we have said about completeness earlier. Jesus means ‘Go on and on and on forgiving’. It’s the only way God knows how to forgive; we are made complete in Him. St Paul wrote: “Forgive one another as Christ has forgiven you.” So, let’s get some wood and build that bridge – did you build one last week, or maybe are you on your 7th?

Stay alert – control the virus – save lives. Build bridges not walls. Forgive as you have been forgiven.

Every Blessing in Christ,
Derek the Cleric



*A simple bridge across the River Dove in Farndale,
Yorkshire Moors*

Photo: Klaus with K / CC BY-SA 4.0

Ideas for prayer

- + all those affected by the coronavirus
- + our NHS workers and those in care homes
- + our nation and our community life
- + our Government and its advisors
- + for wisdom and patience in dealing with the many changes to our ways of life
- + our children and young people returning to school and college in the weeks ahead, their parents, teachers and all support staff
- + our young adults
- + our public church service, all working to make it happen and all who attend, and especially our service today at Sherborne
- + our online worship service and fellowship, our online worship team, and all who attend
- + those working in essential services
- + those who have lost their jobs
- + those who are adjusting to new ways of working
- + those who are suffering any injustice – racial, social, economic

- + those facing any illness or medical treatment
- + those who feel isolated
- + wisdom in the safe use of our churches
- + families bereaved at this time and those not able to use the church as they would wish to

We give thanks for:

- + our church community
- + our church cleaner and those who help maintain our buildings and grounds
- + God's grace that helps us build good fellowship
- + opportunities to serve others and share God's love
- + the beauty of the coast where we live, gardens, greenspaces and the changing seasons
- + progress in understanding and treating the coronavirus
- + our families and friendships
- + God's word, forgiveness of us and his help for our own situations



St Peter and St Paul's, Sherborne Photo: Evelyn Simak CC BY-SA 2.0

Service at Sherborne Church today, Sunday 13th September

Today's service is at St Paul's Church in Sherborne at 10 am.

If you plan to attend, please first contact Pauline Martin to book as usual: 01485 544561 or secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

You can park for the service at the car park where Bedding Company was (now moved and premises empty).

Gerald Bell

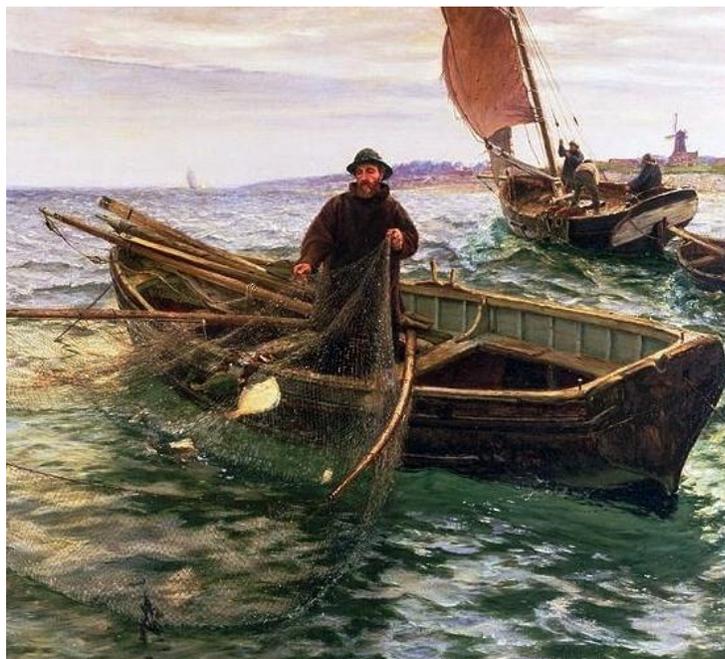
Helen and family would like to thank everyone, most sincerely, for their concern and support both during Ged's illness and following his death. The love expressed by the community will be a lasting legacy for this kind and gentle man.

Towards Alpha – a brief history of evangelism

With thanks to Allan Coleby for bringing us this new series about the evangelists.

There was a huge difference in evangelical method between the Alpha course I attended many years ago, listening to Nicky Gumbel and watching him on the screen, and the Billy Graham campaigns I also saw in the 1950s and 1980s. But both conveyed the same message. From the beginning, the good news brought by Jesus has been disseminated through the centuries in greatly different ways.

Jesus was an itinerant preacher in Palestine during the Roman occupation. He wrote nothing down, but visited the towns, villages, countryside and synagogues, along with twelve special followers that He began to invite to accompany Him as He walked by Lake Galilee (Matthew 4: 18-22). The first four were Peter (Simon) and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John. They were fishermen, not academics or religious teachers. Eight others joined them (Matthew 10: 2). After He had preached to a large crowd from a boat beside Lake Galilee, he gathered them together, designated them as *apostles* (meaning ‘those who are sent’) and gave them authority to continue His ministry: “Go and preach ‘The Kingdom of God is near’.” (Matthew 10: 7 and Mark 3: 14-18).



‘The fisherman’ by Charles Napier Hemy RA, 1888

Eventually, about AD 60–80, Jesus’ actions and sayings were written down as what we call the four *gospels* (this meaning ‘Good news’) by Matthew, a tax collector and then an apostle, Mark, who is known to have accompanied Peter and Paul, Luke, a doctor and travelling companion, and John, the apostle. These writers are known as the *evangelists*. They used collections of the sayings of Jesus which had been committed to memory at a very early stage by those who witnessed them, especially Peter.

The gospels set out the great historical events which show that Christianity is founded on a bedrock of historical truth, and the central doctrines which they embody are the building blocks of the faith. They are followed in the Bible by the Acts of the apostles, also written by Luke, which show how the good news began its explosive expansion across the civilised world, spreading from Palestine to Europe.

The next major part of the New Testament is the Letters, or Epistles, which provide teaching concerning Christian beliefs and behaviour. Most of them were written by Paul, whose conversion to the Christian faith led him to undertake a full programme of evangelism and the establishing of new churches in other countries. Many of his letters were written to churches, the seeds of which he had planted, giving them advice. All the letters were written to individuals (such as Timothy or Titus) or churches, such as those at Rome, Corinth and Philippi. They are not dull doctrinal textbooks but living testimonies to faith.

It was by means of his physical presence, or by his letters, that Paul was the first person to export to the wider world that living faith that had been born in Palestine.

(Where he went to do that will be seen in the next episode of this series.)

–Allan Coleby

'Bubbles' at church

Please note: at the moment there is no rule restricting our church services to only 30 people, as there is for funerals and weddings. We are using 'bubbles' and can accommodate quite a lot more in our church. We hope this will be an encouragement to you if you are thinking of booking to attend a service with us.

Evening prayer service with the Bishop of Norwich, 17th September

On Thursday, 17th September the Bishop of Norwich will be visiting our Deanery and will be presiding over Evening Prayer in St Nicholas Church at 5.45 pm.

If you wish to attend, please contact Pauline Martin to book as usual: 01485 544561 or secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

Ingoldisthorpe news

We hope to hold the church service on Sunday, 6th October in Ingoldisthorpe Parish Church, St Michael's, but this will depend on the repairs to the roof being completed. We'll keep you posted.

Bible Bites

As a response to provide for the schools locally and further afield, we have started creating engaging weekly collective worship to use in the classrooms. However, if you have children who don't go to the local schools but may enjoy seeing this, or if you would like to see the sort of thing we get up to, why not watch at:

<https://dersinghamonlineworship.com/category/children>

—Rev Mark and Rev Dave

Alpha course online starts 24th September

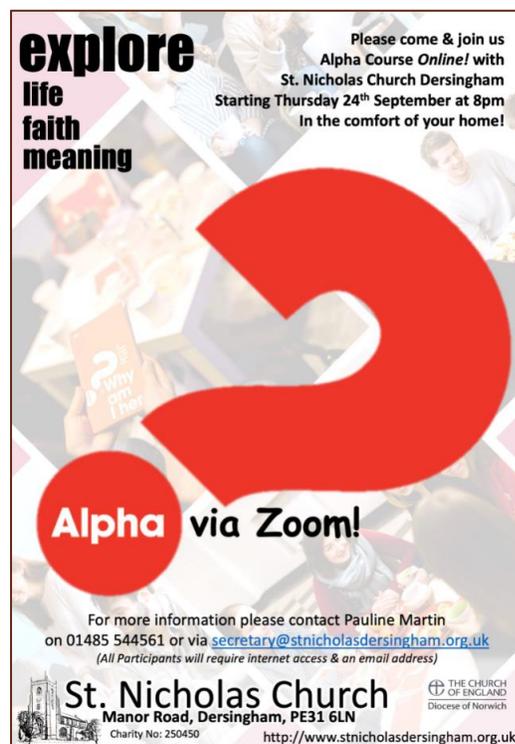
Led by St Nicholas Church Dersingham, the course starts on Thursday 24th September at 8:00 pm and runs for nine weeks, with a week off for half-term.

Alpha is a wonderful opportunity to explore faith and meaning and to ask the questions you might have about Christian life and life in general. Everyone is welcome.

This year Alpha comes to you as an online course. Join us via Zoom from the comfort of your home!

We hope to include a day away (or a stay day), subject to guidance nearer the time.

For more information, please contact Pauline Martin on 01485 544561 or at secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk



explore
life
faith
meaning

Please come & join us
Alpha Course *Online!* with
St. Nicholas Church Dersingham
Starting Thursday 24th September at 8pm
In the comfort of your home!

Alpha via Zoom!

For more information please contact Pauline Martin
on 01485 544561 or via secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
(All Participants will require internet access & an email address)

St. Nicholas Church
Manor Road, Dersingham, PE31 6LN

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Charity No: 250450 <http://www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk>

Wordsearch

All the words in this week's puzzle from Carol can be found in Matthew chapter 18 verses 21–35.

T	I	R	F	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	S	I	W
W	I	E	E	E	S	F	S	T	E	W	O	S	A
R	K	W	A	P	E	F	A	D	C	N	A	T	W
N	E	V	E	S	A	B	Y	R	A	E	S	N	W
E	S	N	I	S	C	Y	N	E	N	E	D	E	N
K	R	O	N	D	E	R	M	H	C	C	E	L	P
S	E	R	V	A	N	T	N	T	E	W	R	A	M
E	N	T	I	T	E	S	N	A	L	I	T	T	O
A	I	F	K	O	S	D	E	F	L	C	T	T	D
C	R	E	E	E	T	S	N	D	E	K	B	S	G
F	I	F	A	E	Y	E	S	D	D	E	E	E	N
A	T	I	M	E	S	V	O	E	A	D	D	S	I
E	R	M	P	R	T	N	E	V	A	E	H	R	K
C	R	A	K	K	E	E	M	A	S	T	E	R	E

KINGDOM
FATHER
MASTER
SEVEN
TALENTS
FORGIVE
SINS
TIMES
REPAY
DEBT
CANCELLED
OWE
HEAVEN
WICKED
SERVANT



Send us your news ...

Stopwatch: how quickly can you solve these anagrams?

ECO INDUSTRY

FINER MESH

GIVEN MEALS

YOUNG SAGES

IN ITS CHARITY

(All are words found in Allan's article about evangelism. Answers, last page.)

*“The more clearly we can focus our attention on
the wonders and realities of the universe about us,
the less taste we shall have for destruction.”*

*–Rachel Carson, 1907-1964
biologist, author and conservationist*

Reminder

Please remember to book in advance if you plan to attend the Sunday in-church worship service at 10 am in St Nicholas Church, Dersingham. We have plenty of space and are using 'bubbles' and social distancing.

You will need to book in advance each time.

To book, please contact Pauline Martin on 01485 544561 or secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

Words for the morning

*These are the words of an old hymn,
but they read like a prayer or a poem.
I hope you'll enjoy them. –lw*

My Father, for another night
Of quiet sleep and rest,
For all the joy of morning light
Thy holy name be blest.

Now with the new-born day I give
Myself anew to thee,
That as thou wilt I may live,
And what thou wilt be.

Whate'er I do, things great or small,
Whate'er I speak or frame,
Thy glory may I seek in all,
Do all in Jesus' name.

My Father, for his sake, I pray,
Thy child accept and bless;
And lead me by thy grace to-day
In paths of righteousness.

–Sir H. W. Baker, 1875

*Anagrams: countryside,
fishermen, evangelism,
synagogues, Christianity*

With help from: anagrammaker.com

Bring a cushion...

You may wish to bring a cushion if you are coming to church for the service or for private prayer, as we've removed all the pew cushions for ease of cleaning!

Face coverings

Please be aware that the Diocese have now said that we should be wearing masks (face coverings) in church for our services, but if you have any health problems and are unable to wear one, please be assured that you will be very welcome in church without one.

Contactless payment

At our in-church services, we would welcome you making your Giving by Contactless Payment, which will be available on the front desk as you come in. Just set the machine to the amount you wish to give and scan your card.

Those who are unable to get to the service and would like to make a donation, please contact the Treasurer, Pat Oughtibridge, c/o the church office at 01485 544561 or email secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk



The migrating geese will be back with us soon!

Photo: Gidzy CC BY 2.0



www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
dersinghamonlineworship.com

