

# SELBY ABBEY

*Welcome Worship Witness*



## Christ the King 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### Reflection by the Revd Paul Finlinson

Before the new Church year begins on Advent Sunday in seven days' time, the last week of the old year keeps the Feast of 'Christ the King' – the climax of everything we've celebrated as we have observed the festivals and commemorations of the past twelve months.

The New Testament reading from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians sums it all up: God raised Christ from the dead in order that he should have a position of supreme authority over all things.

The Ephesians, that is to say, the people of Ephesus, must have found this very difficult to take on board. Ephesus was a pagan city, dominated by the Temple of Artemis. Much emphasis was placed there on the power of magic and the occult – how could Jesus have power and authority over all of this?

Likewise our world is dominated by many 'powers': political powers, many of them corrupt; military powers; extreme and misguided religious powers; the powers of social and economic forces. Many innocent people across the world are trapped by the consequences of the misuse of these powers – famine, poverty and the results of war are obvious examples; but even here in Britain there are victims of bullying, there are the consequences of the spread of knife crime, together with social media misuse, unscrupulous advertising, and the results of inept government at both national and local level. There are many other examples too – but the cause is the same:

someone else's misuse of power results in the suffering of the innocent. Again, as in Ephesus, how can we claim that Jesus rules over all of this?

The answer is that people of faith know that he does. It may not be obvious, but because the people of faith know his liberating power, they – we – can do something about it. It is rather like living in the outpost of a kingdom; sometimes it might seem as if we are living in an alien land – proclaiming one way of life when the world seems to be living to different standards altogether.

We have to go into this territory taking the message of freedom from these oppressive powers into the world and making our message of new life and light, of mercy and hope, known to it.

We can do this by carrying out the things which are mentioned in today's Gospel reading – feeding the hungry, giving the thirsty a drink, ministering to strangers, clothing those with little clothing, visiting the sick and the prisoners and generally making our presence known in the world. And then in these days before Christmas, which really begin with the first Sunday in Advent next week, we can again be the lights that shine in the darkness of the world. It is the time of year when more people than usual think about Christ the King, but of course they think of him as a new born baby; with the right approach the light can be made known in this dark world this Christmas, persuading those in power who misuse their power, that all power comes from Christ and is to be used to further his Kingdom.

**Prayer for Christ the King:** Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the Unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

### Psalm 95v1-7

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving and be glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry land.

Come, let us worship and bow down and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

**Ezekiel 34v.11-16, 20-24:** Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

**Ephesians 1v.15-end:** I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called

you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Matthew 25v.31-end:** Jesus said to his disciples, 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he

will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

**Final prayer:** Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS:** For all involved in the life and worship of the Abbey especially all those who work in our Gift and Coffee Shop.

For local churches, especially the parishes of Sherburn, Saxton, Barkston Ash, Aberford, Mickfield, Ledsham and Fairburn.

For Harlow Jane Kershaw, Louie-bob Tolson and Carter James Smith and their parents and godparents as they are baptised on Sunday.

For Schools and Colleges in the parish, especially Barby Bridge Primary School and the Pre-school at the Abbey School.

**Those who are sick or in need:** Eric Beedham, Stephen Bower, Margaret Carder, Sharon Cooper, Kevin Haddock, Sheila Harris, Roy Matthews, Jennifer Shaw-Wright, Lynne Tebbet, Chris Upton, Marlene Ward, Chris, Fraser, Nicola, Tony, Martin, Sean

**The departed:** Alan Tomblin, Richard Gotch, Peter Cunnington, Joe Brunyard, Jean Gilbertson.

#### THIS WEEK IN THE ABBEY

<b>Sun</b>	08.00	Holy Communion
	10.00	Sung Eucharist
	12.15	Baptism
	13.00	Baptism
	16.00	Family Funtime
	18.30	Evensong (said w. hymns)
<b>Mon</b>	12.00	Holy Communion
<b>Wed</b>	10.30	Funeral
	19.00	Cancer Research Concert (ticket only)
<b>Thu</b>	10.00	Holy Communion
	13.45	Barwic Parade School Carol Service
<b>Fri</b>	10.00	Christmas tree Festival from today
<b>Sat</b>	10.00	Christmas Fair

**The Abbey is open 10.00 – 16.00 daily. The Coffee & Gift Shop is open 10.30–15.30 (13.30–15.30 Sunday)**

**SELBY COLLEGE VIDEO EXHIBITION:** These video displays by students from Selby College are part of the Heritage Action Zone project and will run from late Monday afternoon to Thursday.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL:** Friday 1<sup>st</sup> – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Come and enjoy the trees decorated by local charities, schools, churches, and other community groups.

**FAMILY FUNTIME: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 4.00pm**  
Fun crafts, trails, activities, bible stories & songs followed by free party food tea for ages 0-11 (accompanied by adults). **Next: 26<sup>th</sup> November**

**CHRISTMAS FAIR: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**  
Donations of tombola/raffle prizes, gift bags, chocolates, money towards refreshments and help with stalls are needed. Also **cakes** please, and any help for setting-up from 2pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and clearing away afterwards (4pm onwards).

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE: 3pm Sunday 3 December**  
In aid of the Children's Society. Please join the Junior Choir, Family Funtime families and others for our annual Christingle Service. Everyone welcome, not just those with children!

**ABBEY TOTS:** every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 10.00-11.00 in the St Nicholas Room in the Abbey. **Next: 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** This has been booked at the Oaks Golf Club and Spa on Sunday **10th December**. Please see Sue for a menu or further information.'

#### PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE & THE WORLD

1.00pm Tuesdays: next on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. Further info from Gill Simpson at: [gillsimpson@aol.com](mailto:gillsimpson@aol.com)

**SELBY TOGETHER:** As December is a busy month for many of us, we have decided not to hold a meeting this month. Enjoy the festive season everyone. Details of our 10<sup>th</sup> January meeting later. Hazel and Gail

**EVENING FELLOWSHIP GROUP:** We meet in people's homes about once a fortnight on a midweek evening (usually Wednesday) for light refreshments, a "warm-up" activity such as a game or quiz, then about an hour of study of a bible passage and/or a Christian topic. If you may be interested in attending contact Chris Bywell at [chrisbywell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chrisbywell@yahoo.co.uk) or on 01757 241723.

**SELBY ABBEY JUNIOR CHOIR: Saturdays 10-10.45**

For any aged 6-10years who love singing to come and develop their vocal talents as part of a group.

**YOUTH GROUPS:**

**'THE MEET'** at the St Richard's Centre on Mondays from 4.00-5.00pm for age 9-12.

**'IGNITE & ALIVE'** Hawdon Institute on Tuesdays from 5.30-7.00pm for Y6+. Contact Rebecca or John Watkins (07895216171/07725183732)

**CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER** 2.00-2.30pm Mondays in the South Choir Aisle. An ecumenical group, we share any joys or concerns followed by 20min of silence. All welcome. *Janet Lawrence & Linda Courage*

**ECO CHURCH GROUP:** We meet monthly to look at how we can improve our care of creation in our worship/mission. Dan Thomas for more info.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** SHOP ASSISTANTS, SERVERS (10am Sundays), WELCOMERS, SUNDAY SCHOOL. Contact the vicar/office for more info.

**ABBAY CHOIR:** Any treble, soprano, alto, tenor and bass singers (adults/children 8+). If you are interested in joining a friendly community & making music in our great building with the famous Abbey organ, contact Oliver Waterer.

**SELBY FOODBANK:** Items can be left in the Abbey. Current needs are tinned meat/fish, tinned fruit, tea bags/coffee, jam, UHT milk. No soup, beans, pasta, cereal or rice please.

**ONLINE DONATIONS:** There is a 'Donate' button on our website so people can give online.

**ABBAY OFFICE:**

Administrator Jennifer Cooke

Phone 01757 703123

Email [office@selbyabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@selbyabbey.org.uk)

Website [www.selbyabbey.org.uk](http://www.selbyabbey.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/WelcomeWorshipWitness](https://www.facebook.com/WelcomeWorshipWitness)

**VICAR**

John Weetman 01757 705130

[weetman217@btinternet.com](mailto:weetman217@btinternet.com)

**MINISTRY TEAM**

Julie Watson 01757 703123

Paul Finlinson [p.finlinson@outlook.com](mailto:p.finlinson@outlook.com)

Dan Thomas [dan.thomas@selbyabbey.org.uk](mailto:dan.thomas@selbyabbey.org.uk)

Karen Banks [karen.banks2@btopenworld.com](mailto:karen.banks2@btopenworld.com)

**CHURCHWARDENS**

Elaine Exley 07522182662

Sue Tagert 07512402107

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

Chris Wilson [safeguarding@selbyabbey.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@selbyabbey.org.uk)

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Oliver Waterer c/o Abbey Office

**YORK DIOCESE** [www.dioceseofyork.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk)

For a variety of news and resources.

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND** [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

A range of resources including a virtual Sunday service & **DAILY HOPE** (0800 804 8044: a free phonenumber of hymns, reflections & prayers).