

16<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

## Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

(Green - Proper 24)



**A very warm welcome to everyone worshipping with us today. All Christians, who are full members of any denomination, are invited to receive Communion; or a blessing.**

**If you are visiting, please take our greetings back to your church, or if you have recently moved into the area, please make yourself known to our rector,**

**the [Revd. Canon Rachel Watts](#),  
our curate the [Revd. Debbie Smith-Wilds](#),  
or the churchwarden [Mr Mark Turner](#).**

Dear Friends,

*In 1940 the sculptor Jacob Epstein was faced with an enormous block of alabaster weighing over two and half tons. After some weeks, he set to work with hammer and chisel. Going with the grain of the material, rather than against it, and after much physical energy, the outline of two figures emerged - locked in a wrestling embrace - Jacob and the Angel. We find the passage in our first reading today.*

*Jacob rests, apparently defeated, in the arms of the angel whose bulging thighs and biceps strain to hold Jacob upright. Will the weight of Jacob drag the angel to earth or will the power of the angel lift Jacob to heaven?*

*Part of the message of the sculpture is about the dogged resistance of the materials with which Epstein was so strenuously working and part of the message is autobiographical; but part is also spiritual - that with effort, discipline and concentrated attention, beauty and meaning can emerge out of recalcitrance.*

Every blessing,  
**Debbie**



**Collect:**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is before,  
we may run the way of your commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

**First Reading: Genesis 32.22-31**

<sup>22</sup> The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. <sup>24</sup> Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup> Then he said, *'Let me go, for the day is breaking.'* But Jacob said, *'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.'* <sup>27</sup> So he said to him, *'What is your name?'* And he said, *'Jacob.'* <sup>28</sup> Then the man said, *'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.'* <sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked him, *'Please tell me your name.'* But he said, *'Why is it that you ask my name?'* And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, *'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.'* <sup>31</sup> The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

**Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3. 14 - 4.5**

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in

righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

<sup>1</sup>In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: <sup>2</sup>proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 18.1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup>In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." ' <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

### **Please remember in your prayers:**

We pray for daily renewal and for patience in times of struggle or need. We give thanks for the beauty of the earth as the seasons change and the colour of the autumn leaves at this time. We continue to pray for

those places where there is war or unrest, natural disasters or where life is reduced or impaired. We pray for our community here in Belton and Wardley, that in our daily lives we may be fruitful in God's kingdom.

We pray for the recently departed : Peter Baker



## **Post Communion:**

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast:  
for here we receive you,  
here the memory of your passion is renewed,  
here our minds are filled with grace,  
and here a pledge of future glory is given,  
when we shall feast at that table where you reign  
with all your saints for ever.

**Amen**

## **Hymns:**

- 234 Christ, whose glory fills the skies
- 304 Once, only once, and once for all
- 336 Angel voices ever singing, round thy throne of light

**Please join us for tea or coffee after the service**



## **For your Diary:**

**Sunday 30th October 6pm Choral Evensong** sung by Uppingham Parish Choir here in St Peter's Church. All welcome.

**Sunday 6th November 6.30pm Service of Light and Thanksgiving for the Departed.** An opportunity to remember loved ones who have died and to light a candle in prayer. All welcome. Please add names of those you would like remembered to the list in church.

## **Christmas Tree Festival**

We are looking for as many groups, individuals or families willing to undertake to produce a Christmas Tree for the Christmas Tree festival in church 17-19th December. It can be a real or artificial tree decorated in any style or a display involving the theme of Christmas Trees in some way. Debbie is currently collecting names and allocating spaces for each tree. Please do get in touch if you would like to join in with this.  
[beltonwithwardleychurch@gmail.com](mailto:beltonwithwardleychurch@gmail.com)