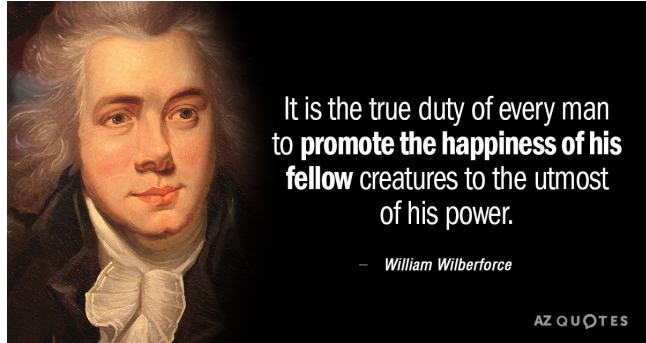


William Wilberforce died 30 July 1833



William Wilberforce (1759-1833) was a British politician, philanthropist and leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade. A native of Kingston upon Hull, Yorkshire, he began his political career in 1780, eventually becoming an independent Member of Parliament (MP) for Yorkshire (1784–1812). In 1785, he became an evangelical Christian, which resulted in major changes to his lifestyle and a lifelong concern for reform.

In 1787, he came into contact with Thomas Clarkson and a group of activists against the slave trade, including Granville Sharp, Hannah More and Charles Middleton. They persuaded Wilberforce to take on the cause of abolition, and he soon became the leading English abolitionist. He headed the parliamentary campaign against the British slave trade for 20 years until the passage of the Slave Trade Act of 1807.

Wilberforce was convinced of the importance of religion, morality and education. He championed causes and campaigns such as the Society for the Suppression of Vice, British missionary work in India, the creation of a free colony in Sierra Leone, the foundation of the Church Mission Society and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. His underlying conservatism led him to support politically and socially controversial legislation, which resulted in criticism that he was ignoring injustices at home while campaigning for the enslaved abroad.

In later years, Wilberforce supported the campaign for the complete abolition of slavery and continued his involvement after 1826, when he resigned from Parliament because of his failing health. That campaign led to the Slavery Abolition Act 1833, which abolished slavery in most of the British Empire. Wilberforce died just three days after hearing that the passage of the Act through Parliament was assured. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, close to his friend William Pitt the Younger.



St Cross Newsletter July 2022

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The Vicar writes...

May I apologise for the absence of the June Newsletter due to bereavement and I would like to thank everyone for their kindness and sympathy expressed in so many ways for both Angela and me.

We are in that time of year when many people will take time away especially if there are no school holidays to consider. Recently, we used a travel voucher which had been given to me before the Coronavirus pandemic. Like many other people in a similar position, we were trying to use this voucher before the expiry date and consequently finding accommodation in many places was difficult. And then I stumbled on the idea of going to Lincoln, a place neither of us had ever visited (though I know of at least two members of our church hail from there). We both like historic cities and amongst the history of places like this there is usually a strong Christian heritage and a cathedral. Lincoln is no exception and if you are to walk to its cathedral one feels as though one is climbing the stairway to heaven via Steep Hill. But it is worth the effort in so many respects.

There is a sadness, though, in that in maintaining our cathedrals and the funding of these essential works, it is often hard to find a place of sanctuary and peacefulness during the standard opening times. Inevitably, events are held, and visitors come in. Whilst we were in Lincoln Cathedral, staging and seating were being dismantled from a

concert event and the sound of clattering steelwork and chairs being stacked did tarnish our first visit. We did return later for Choral Evensong and then in the peacefulness beforehand, and during the service beautifully led by the girls' school choir, I felt the Spirit of God was given space to surround us as through our prayers and hymns we offered praise to God. Choral Evensong is a beautiful cultural jewel that gives respite and inspiration during busy modern life and has been lost in most parish churches. At Lincoln I particularly appreciated the involvement of the congregation in the singing of the opening and closing office hymns.

Which leads me to later this month when we welcome the Knutsford Deanery Choir to St. Cross for a service of Choral Evensong on July 24th at 5.30pm: a once-a-year opportunity to enjoy this service in our church with a full choir. And beforehand we will be having a Strawberry Afternoon Tea at 3.30pm. I hope you can join us!

Yours, in Christ
Paul



The view looking east from the choir stalls in Lincoln Cathedral

Occasional Offices



Funeral
23 May Robert Neville Deakin

Readings for Services - Sundays and Wednesdays

	Morning Services	Evening Service
Sunday 3 July Trinity 3 Thomas the Apostle	Habakkuk 2.1-4 Ephesians 2.19-end John 20.24-29	6.30pm Celtic Eucharist Job 42.1-6 John 11.1-16
6 July Wednesday	Hosea 10.1-3, 7-8, 12 or Psalm 115.3-10 Matthew 10.1-7	
Sunday 10 July Trinity 4	Deuteronomy 30.9-14 Colossians 1.1-14 Luke 10.25-37	7pm Compline (Zoom)
13 July Wednesday	Isaiah 10.5-7,13-16 or Psalm 94.5-11 Matthew 11.25-27	
Sunday 17 July Trinity 5	Genesis 18.1-10a Colossians 1.15-28 Luke 10.38-end	
20 July Wednesday	Jeremiah 1.1, 4-10 or Psalm 70 Matthew 13.1-9	
Sunday 24 July Trinity 6	Genesis 18.20-32 Colossians 2.6-15 (16-19) Luke 11.1-13	5.30pm Deanery Evensong Ps 144 Deut. 30.11- end Mark 5.21-end
27 July Wednesday	Jeremiah 15.10, 16-end or Ps. 59. 1-4, 18-end Matthew 13.44-46	
Sunday 31 July Trinity 7	Ecclesiastes 1.2, 12-14, 2.18-23 Colossians 3.1-11 Luke 12.13-21	