

POCKLINGTON GROUP OF CHURCHES

Burnby, St Giles; Givendale, St Ethelburga; Hayton, St Martin; Huggate, St Mary;
Londesborough, All Saints; Millington, St Margaret; Nunburnholme, St James;
Pocklington, All Saints; Shiptonthorpe, All Saints

www.pocklingtongroupofchurches.org

www.pocklingtonchurchfriends.org.uk

THE BULLETIN - READINGS

12 August, Trinity 11

Collect for the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
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.

(or)

God of glory,
the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

1 Kings 19:4-8

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and
came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he
might die: 'It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am

no better than my ancestors.’ Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, ‘Get up and eat.’ He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, ‘Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.’ He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

Ephesians 4:25-5:2: Rules for the New Life

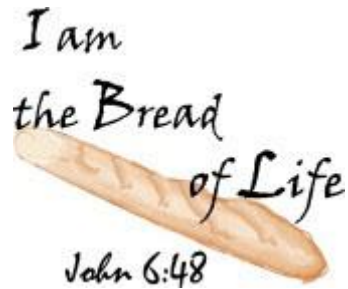
So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

John 6:35, 41-51

Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, ‘I am the bread that came down from heaven.’ They were saying, ‘Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, “I have come down from heaven”?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Do not complain among

yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'



**Readings for 19 August, Trinity 12, are:
Proverbs 9:1-6; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58**

Boris and the Burka *by Rodney Nicholson*

Boris Johnson, though good for a laugh, should choose his words more carefully.

His suggestion that burka-wearing women look like bank robbers and letter-boxes has understandably aroused anger. Had he broached the subject more seriously, I would have had some sympathy. The burka is a problem. A person wearing it *could* potentially be a terrorist or bank robber. It would be inappropriate for a woman to teach children with her head covered, as it would be for any public servant to be so dressed. I agreed with Jack Straw when in 2006 he voiced unease about talking to women whose face he could not properly see. The

Muslim religion does not require women to wear the burka. Its use hardly helps community cohesion.

As for looking like letter-boxes, it's something you might say privately but not in a climate of sensitive race relations. In an ideal world we *could* joke about one another's appearance. If someone, for example, thought my cassock and surplice reminded them of fancy dress, I would not be offended but laugh with them. When Jesus comes again to bring in the kingdom of heaven in all its fullness, no one will be upset by innocent fun. We'll be able to say to someone, "You're just like Charlie Chaplin" or "I could have mistaken you for Mary Berry covered in flour" and no one will bat an eyelid. "Love is not touchy", says St Paul in 1 Corinthians 13. I'm sure many, perhaps most, Muslims can laugh at themselves. Insecurity breeds touchiness; peace and love make for abundant good humour.

On a related point, I do think that those who come to this country should be made aware of British standards. The problem is confusion over what those standards are. The Daily Express and Church Times newspapers, for example, would give different answers. For a start, I would list three yardsticks: no hitting of children under any circumstances, full equality of girls and women, and acceptance of gay and lesbian people.

Talking of dress, isn't it a relief that the days are long gone when women wore posh hats for church! A preacher no longer has to look over a forest of unnecessary headgear. One wonders if at times the hat was more important than God. And as for those Confirmation veils. If they symbolised girls' purity, what should the boys have worn?