

## **A few words on the readings**

**Zechariah 9:9-12** Zechariah paints a picture of the Messiah that people were at that time expecting. He would bring peace to Jerusalem and he would come riding on a donkey not on a victor's horse. Christ does not come as a mighty warrior for we read in our Gospel that *he is gentle and humble in heart*.

**Romans 7:15-25a** Paul speaks of his struggle between two contradictory forces: he is attracted towards doing good but finds himself doing wrong. His struggle is also ours for human weakness leads to this failure. Like him we see an ideal which cannot be attained. Christ alone enables us to resolve this dilemma. He gives us his teaching but more than this he gives us freedom from living according to rules and regulations by showing us the way of love which brought him to the cross. We are confident that God has acted through Jesus to free us from condemnation and to lead us into new life with him.

**Matthew 11:16-19, 25-29** Jesus' first words allude to the 'wise' amongst his listeners, people who reject his teachings because they fail to see God's presence in what he is doing. Yet children are more likely to see God in Jesus because they are humble and vulnerable and not important like the 'wise'. In the second part of the Gospel reading, we hear Jesus speaking of himself as humble and gentle and ready to help share the burdens of those who turn to him. He uses the image of a yoke, a double yoke which allows him to be paired with us and to guide us. We need therefore to entrust ourselves to him and to learn from him so that we might find our rest in him. *For my yoke is easy and my burden is light*.

## **Ministry**

The Rt. Rev. Stephen Geoffrey Cottrell will be confirmed as the 98<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of York at 11.00 am on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July. The service will be available on the Church of England website. We pray for his ministry and give thanks for that of John Sentamu.

We pray also for our new Area Dean, Rev. Philip Batchford as he takes over from the acting Dean, the Rev. Lyn Wortley.

Last week we asked for prayers for those who await their ordination either as priests or deacons. Today we ask your prayers for all Lay Ministers and especially for those Readers who are starting their ministry or renewing it. Patrick has just had his PTO (Permission to Officiate) renewed by the Bishop for another 3 years and he asks your prayers for him as he continues to serve in this parish.