

NOTICES

Pumpkin Party - Friday 30th October @ 4.30pm



Children from all our parishes are warmly invited to our 'Pumpkin Party in the Pews' which I am organising with our Deanery Children & Schools Minister, Hannah Fishwick. It will be held in St Mary's, Broughton, which is our largest indoor space, on

Friday 30th October at 4.30pm (running time 1 hour). The event will be socially-distanced and therefore booking in advance is essential. Hannah has run this event over several years, using the excellent *Pumpkin Heroes* material from World Vision. Please encourage friends and family with primary-age children to come along. There will be crafts, games, storytelling and audio-visuals, all from the safety of your pew.

For more details and to reserve places, please email Stephen: stephen@kbdchurches.com

Links for online services and other materials

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12340/page/62694/view/>

Next week: 25th Oct / Last in Trinity / 4th Sunday

9.30am Service of the Word (Kirkby)
11am Holy Communion (Broughton)
6pm BCP Holy Communion (Woodland)

Collect

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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.

Isaiah 45:1-7

Overleaf is some further information about Cyrus of Persia and his role in the restoration of Israel to the promised land, from the perspective of an important artefact now on display in British Museum.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped

to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
² I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

Psalm 96:1-9

¹ O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
² Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.
⁴ For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
⁶ Honour and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
⁹ Worship the Lord in holy splendour;
tremble before him, all the earth.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We always give thanks

to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?’ ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, ‘Whose head is this, and whose title?’ ²¹ They answered, ‘The emperor’s.’ Then he said to them, ‘Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Prayer after Communion

Holy and blessed God,
you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son
and filled us with your Holy Spirit:
may we honour you,
not only with our lips
but in lives dedicated to the service
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE ‘CYRUS CYLINDER’

The Cyrus Cylinder, pictured opposite, is a clay cylinder impressed with Babylonian (cuneiform) script. It was found by the archaeologist Hormuzd Rassam in 1879, during excavations undertaken for the British Museum on the site of ancient Babylon. The cylinder was

intended to be placed in the foundations of the city wall. ‘Foundation deposits’ of this kind were common in the ancient world and they have left us with many an archaeological treasure.

The cylinder records the fall of Babylon to Cyrus the Great of Persia in 539 BC and the subsequent acts of Cyrus, which include restoring Babylon, receiving tribute from neighbouring states, and returning certain deported peoples and their objects of worship to their homelands.

The cylinder is commonly thought to corroborate the Biblical account in Ezra I, which attributes to Cyrus the return of the Jews from Exile in Babylon. Ezra I and Isaiah 45 (above) both attribute Cyrus’ actions to the direction of God. Jeremiah 25 and 29 also prophesy this return of the exiles from Babylon.

The cylinder does not specifically mention the Jews. In the voice of Cyrus himself it recites a number of specific acts to restore captive peoples:



“From ... to Aššur and from Susa, Agade, Ešnunna, Zabban, Me-Turnu, Der, as far as the region of Gutium, the sacred centers on the other side of the Tigris, whose sanctuaries had been abandoned for a long time, I returned the images of the gods, who had resided in Babylon, to their places and I let them dwell in eternal abodes. I gathered all their inhabitants and returned to them their dwellings.”

Whether or not Cyrus’ motives and edicts were exactly as Ezra records, it is thought likely that the Biblical references reflect Persian policy at least in general terms. Captive peoples and their devotional objects were certainly returned by Cyrus to the lands from which they had been taken. It may be that the Jewish exiles were dealt with in a text that no longer survives; or were relatively insignificant in Persian perception and consequently went unmentioned. The political and strategic significance of the land of Israel makes it plausible that Cyrus would choose to people to their own lands who might then form a grateful vassal state.