



WALBURY BEACON
BENEFACTICE

Sunday 4th October 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Readings

Isaiah 5.1-7

The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and
hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild
grapes. ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between
me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not
done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?
⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.
⁶ I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Philippians 3.4b-14

⁴even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.
If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on
the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a
Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the
church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had,
these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard
everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in
order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my
own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the
righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of
his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,
¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Pressing towards the Goal

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21.33-end

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

33 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' ⁴¹They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

42 Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.