

**Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity (13.10.19)**  
**With the Bad Salzuflen Lutheran Youth Choir**  
**2 Timothy 2: 8 – 15; Luke 17: 11 – 19**

“Vielen Dank!” and “Dankeschön!” - two different ways of saying Thank you in German. Vielen Dank perhaps being slightly more formal than Dankeschön. Dankeschön is something you would say in conversation with somebody else: Dankeschön – bitte schön. But that, I’m afraid, is it! I have now told you nearly everything I know about the German language. I never learnt German at school. I have discovered one or two important survival techniques for when in Germany. I’ve discovered that, if I’m eating a piece of cake, and I smile and say “Das ist sehr gut” they give me a second piece of cake! I can tell you, I’ve made use of that on many occasions!

But it’s not really so important. What is really important is knowing how to say Thank you. In our Bible reading this morning ten people suffering from

leprosy were healed. Nine of them went to the Temple, were certified healed by the priests and were able to reintegrate into the community from which they had come. It is a story of success for those nine. Something different happened to the tenth person, though. He was healed as well, but he wasn’t just healed: he was fully restored in his relationship with God. And that happened because he went back and said thank you to Jesus.

Saying thank you is important. It’s what today’s service is really all about. Sometimes a church service with the bread and the wine of Holy Communion is called a Eucharist. Eucharist means a service of thanks. The word is not English; the word is not German; but it comes from the Greek *ευχαριστώ* which means to give thanks. When we celebrate Holy Communion we give thanks and praise for all that God has done for us. And as we give thanks and praise we encounter the living presence of Jesus in our lives

The Revd Matthew Pollard, Rector of Bridlington Priory

through the bread and wine we receive. We are fully reconciled to God through Jesus. And through that reconciliation we are healed and equipped to go and spread thanks wherever it is due.

So I want to say Thank you and again today. I want to say thank you to the choir from Bad Salzufen for the contribution they are going to make to the service today and for the concert they are going to provide this evening. I want to say thank you to the people from Bad Salzufen who have made this visit possible. I want to say thank you to all the people in Bridlington who are providing accommodation for our visitors and a big thank you for the incredible amount of work that is being done cooking over in the Priory Church Rooms.

And it's not just this weekend's visit for which we should give thanks. The friendship between Bridlington and Bad Salzufen is important. We give

thanks that over the course of more than 40 years both personal and civic relationships have been established. And we hope that the friendship will be strong enough to protect us from becoming inward looking and suspicious of others if Britain crashes out of the European Union in two weeks' time without a deal. Thank you for being our friends. I hope that if we recognise and acknowledge the strength of our friendship and keep saying thank you for it, the process of reconciliation between us will be sustained and secured. Vielen Dank.

Amen.