

The Rambling Rector

Definition: A White Flowering Climbing Rose Or A Vicar With No Sermon Script!



Its A Bit Stormy Out There!

'Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.' (Mark 4:39).

What started out for the disciples as a routine trip across the Sea of Galilee, ended up with a storm threatening to overwhelm their boat! Jesus was asleep in the boat, so little wonder they feared for their lives: "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" (38).

Who would have thought just a few months ago that the world would be overwhelmed by the Coronavirus pandemic and our lives turned upside down! Self-isolating and social-distancing are now part of our daily vocabulary, as we live in an uncertain world. What does this story say to us in our circumstances?

Firstly, we read that Jesus calmed the storm: "He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!'" (39). He is the Lord of the storm and holds our circumstances in His hands. We are called to trust, not fear, being assured that He is with us to protect us. "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (40). Nothing is outside of His control.

Secondly, despite the calm, the disciples were still terrified: "They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!'" (41). Like us, the disciples were asking why Jesus, who loved them, had allowed the storm to happen! Our circumstances provide us with an opportunity to understand more deeply who Jesus is. We can't control Him and we don't always understand His bigger plans for us and His world. We are called to overcome fear and insecurity, by living lives of peace, faith and hope. How contagious can we be for Jesus in a stormy world?



Good News
Zoom!



Photos
From around the
parishes.



Rectory
Revelation
zzzzzz

Bible Readings

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter Addresses the Crowd

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. **24** But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. **25** David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.

26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,
27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.
28 You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

It was impossible for death to keep its hold on him

29 “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. **30** But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **31** Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. **32** God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.
Amen.



John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” **22** And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

“My Lord and my God!”

29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. **31** But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

EASTER – NEW LIFE IN CHRIST EASTER TIME – NEW LIFE IN NATURE



Taken Easter weekend by Hannah

Reflection

It's A Doing Word

I can get quite engrossed in my office, either on the computer or playing my keyboard. If I happen to be sat in there when our evening meal is ready then Catherine will usually give me a shout.

'Neil, your tea's ready.'

My usual response is, '2 minutes'.

Then another call from the kitchen, 'Neil, your tea is ready NOW.'

'Okay, coming'.

Followed a few minutes later by, 'Coming is a verb, a doing word!! Your tea is in the dog!'

It's not really in the dog, (he's only had a mouthful) of course, but the message is clear - get off your chair and come and eat! Take action!

This past week I discovered a new verb, another doing word...and that is 'FAITH'. Perhaps you're surprised by that. But to clarify, it's new because I'd not really appreciated, until now, that in the old testament, and in John's gospel, there is no noun for the word "faith". It's always a verb, it's always an action. In this context it's not talking about 'having' faith, like you might 'have' a pet dog, but rather 'doing' faith.

Last week we celebrated the resurrection, and today we continue with more miracles. However, I don't think for one minute that the resurrection, and the miracles that followed, were to encourage us to sit in our chairs and just contemplate them. Instead, they're there to encourage us to take action. To get out of our chairs. To do faith.

They are there to lead us to live lives that emulate and reflect the love, life and teaching of Jesus - to be salt and light in the world. As we act and live lives that reflect the gifts of God's love and grace, and that reflect the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus, then God instills and creates faith in us.

Thomas finally gets what the other disciples get: a personal encounter with the living Jesus. And it makes a difference to him, and it makes a difference to the other disciples. How? Well, they eventually unbolt their locked door and go out into the world sharing the Good News that Jesus is raised and that the powers of death and darkness are defeated.

We too are called to get out of our chairs, unbolt our doors and live lives that reflect this amazing Good News. Faith is a verb, it's about action, it's a doing word

DIED

BURIED

RISEN

SEEN

Good News & Pictures

From around the parishes

We asked for your pictures showing what you were up over the Easter weekend, so here are some of your pictures.

First, a picture of Cynthia Scully's Easter tree, followed by Easter Sunday breakfast at the Rectory after the service - lovely surprise!



The Tidmarsh family egg hunt in the garden went down well, and Hannah took some photos in the churchyard on her daily dog walk.



Finally, the Elvin family enjoyed a family BBQ. We understand the neighbours dog had a good afternoon as well. Although it wasn't fond of the vegetarian option!

Weekly Service Via Zoom

Last weekend we had our first 'Zoom' services, and the overall consensus is that they went really well. Thank you for everyone's encouraging comments.

Along with worshipping together, the ability to see and interact with one another, was a hugely positive experience for everyone.

On Good Friday 54 people took part and on Easter Sunday 62, which is amazing. However, we also need to remember those who aren't able to access technology. We sent the liturgy out in the mail to all those without technology, and having spoken to them, we know that they joined in at the same time, and appreciated knowing that others from the church family were doing the same. Physically apart, yet together in Christ.

If you are unsure about using Zoom, then Hannah is more than happy to guide you through initial set up and have a practise run before the Sunday service. Please do get in touch with Hannah at hannahredeyoff@live.co.uk or 07875500555.

The direct link, meeting ID and Password, will be the same each week, and the details are below.

Link - <https://zoom.us/j/9723999511?pwd=dmRiZWhpUU9wRWw3N0N5OEVoQjVjQT09>

Meeting ID - 972 399 9511

Password - FABParish



Chris Adamson and the Tidmarsh Family Zooming over Easter

Rectory Revelation

Uncovering the Secrets of the Rectory

Before ordination prospective vicars often have lots of questions.

Is the communion wine just as bad in all churches?

What do you do if you use the wrong name at a baptism, are they stuck with it?

Is it even possible to negotiate with organists?

What's it like to only work on Sundays?

The most common though - Do you need to wear liturgical coloured pyjamas? Of course, look right.



Caption Competition

Something new for readers this week. A caption competition. Let us have your witty comments. To get you started, "Are those chicken legs going on the BBQ?"



The twins had been doing Messy Church at home.

PRAYERS

'Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.' *Philippians 4:4-7*

When the things of the world seem so dark and so grim
When disease and despondency call,
Rejoice in the Lord and the nearness of Him –
May our kindness be witnessed by all!

When the pillars of life seem to crumble and creak
When our walls seem to tumble and fall.
In prayer and petitions our Father we seek –
May our kindness be witnessed by all!

The tempest may rage, but His wondrous peace
Stills the storms that may rage in our soul
In our hearts and our minds shall the turmoils cease
And our kindness is witnessed by all!

By Nigel Beeton

For those who are ill

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Carers

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St Georges Day 23rd April

St George and Hiccup and the dragon

Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually live in harmony.

This month we celebrate St. George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

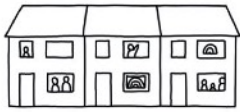
The contrast is clear: St. George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St. George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE
WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE
PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE
UNEMPLOYED AND THE
SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF
GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE
CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



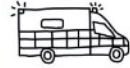
FOR THEY ARE THE
PURVEYORS OF SCARCE
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY
DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL
WORKERS



FOR THEY ARE THE
BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL
WORKERS; THE AMBULANCE CREWS,
THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE
ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US
AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE
CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND
FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF
OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE
REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE
GOD DESPITE THE
MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE
TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN
STEADFAST AND
CONSTANT IN
DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH
WORKERS; THE DEACONS,
PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING
PRESENCE IN A HURTING
WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO
SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE
PARENTS,



FOR THEY ARE COPING
ALONE WITH THEIR
RESPONSIBILITIES AND
THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
ARE ALONE.



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF
GOD AND WITH HIM THEY
WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE
BEREAVED,



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS
ALREADY HAPPENED, THEY
SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR
ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY-WE PRAY-
THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS:
ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO
WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE
GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

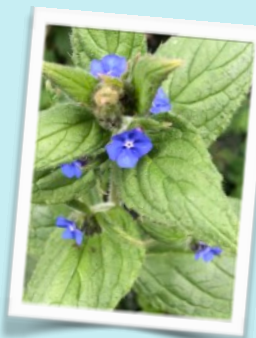
TEXT: JAYNE MANFREDI

CartoonChurch.com

More Pictures



Eggs, eggs, and more eggs, for lunch in
the Heaton household. I wonder if
David could BBQ a cream egg?



More spring plants in the churchyard, and some wee beasts
in Tricia's garden - how many beetles can you count?



Donations To Church

The Bills Keep Coming!

Just a note about giving donations to the churches. Whilst it's been written by David from St Oswald's, it does apply to both our Parishes.

If you use envelopes can I ask you to still put away the money you would normally give each week and bring all the envelopes to church when we eventually get back please.

For those of you who pay by direct debit, your donations will be taken as normal and the Parish Giving scheme is now back to 'normal' after a few weeks of disruption during the pandemic.

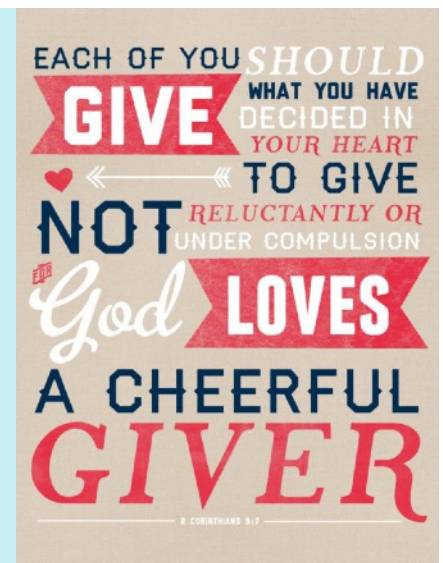
Parish Giving is an easy way of donating to church and it is very safe. On 1st April this year Parish Giving took just over 3.8 MILLION pounds from over 3000 registered parishes around the country. They have also set up a new system of donating by phone instead of filling in forms. A short online enquiry form needs to be completed and Parish Giving will call you to set the payments up. You will need a reference number to do this, which I can supply as well as give advice on how to do everything.

Whilst the scheme was mainly set up to claim Gift Aid for taxpayers it is also open to non taxpayers. Please feel free to call me even if you are thinking about doing this. The advice is free and confidential.

David Liddle - Gift Aid Co-ordinator (St Oswald's) - 01302 864362

A huge thank you to everyone who continues to give generously, especially during this difficult time. Our bills are still coming in, so we truly appreciate your financial commitment. Of course Coronavirus is having a huge effect on Diocesan Finances too, and so all but a handful of staff at Church House have been put on furlough. We know that as a Diocese we were already facing a financial challenge, there is now even more pressure as churches are closed, which means income streams are cut from loose collections at services.

So, please continue to give if you are able, and continue to pray. Pray about all things.



The Bishop Visits

The Bishop was coming to speak at Deanery Synod. Everything had been done to make the evening a success. There were fresh flowers on the table, and coffee and cakes prepared. When the Bishop arrived, however, he was in a crabby frame of mind. Looking around, he beckoned a nervous vicar over. *"I would like to have a glass of water in front of me on the table, if you please,"* he said.

"To drink?" was the vicar's idiotic question.

"Oh no," was the sarcastic reply. *"When I've been speaking half an hour about parish share, I do a high dive."*

1	5	4	6	8	7	2	9	3
2	6	7	5	3	4	6	8	1
3	6	8	1	9	2	5	7	4
4	7	5	2	6	3	8	1	9
9	3	1	8	4	5	7	6	2
6	8	2	7	1	9	3	4	5
5	1	9	6	2	8	4	3	7
8	2	3	4	7	1	9	5	6
7	4	9	3	5	6	1	2	8

Some Words of Encouragement

**“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”
AMEN!**

From Hebrews 4 v 16. God bless stay safe. Sybil

Get In Touch

Don't forget, if you have any good news stories, helpful information, prayers, Bible verses, photos, funny stories about church life, poems, or Christian cartoons, then please do send them in and we will try and include them.

It is necessary to draw near to God, but it is not required of you to prolong your speech till everyone is longing to hear the word 'Amen'. - C H Spurgeon

A Gardener's Hymn

To the tune of Melita by John B Dykes

If you are swept off your feet,
it's time to get on your knees. -
Fred Beck

Eternal Father cure my doubts
And keep the aphids off my sprouts.
Let weevil, codling moth and flea
Eat someone else's mange-tout pea.
Oh hear me when I shout and cry
And send a cure for carrot fly.

Make all my courgettes long and fat
And neutralise my neighbour's cat.
Let not my spuds fall prey to blight
Nor rosebuds vanish in the night.
Oh hear us when we cry to thee:
For those who garden on TV.

The word 'comfort' is derived from the words 'con' and 'fort', meaning 'with strength'. Jesus said that if we mourn, we shall be comforted. Behind the promise of his word lies the resurrection of Jesus Christ, where total defeat was turned into glorious victory. -
Sherwood Wirt

If Easter says anything to us today, it says this: You can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. You can nail it to a cross, wrap it in winding sheets and shut it up in a tomb, but it will rise! Clarence W. Hall

From: Marigolds, Myrtle and Moles by Alan Titchmarsh

8			6	5			4	
				7	4	3	2	
	3		8		9		1	5
	4			1		2		
2		7				1		9
		8		6			7	
4	7		2		1		6	
	8	6	4	3				
	9			8	6			1

© 2014 KrazyDad.com

How Much!

A tourist, planning a trip to the Holy Land, was aghast when he found it would cost £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

“Goodness,” he objected to the travel agent.

“In England it would not have been more than £20.”

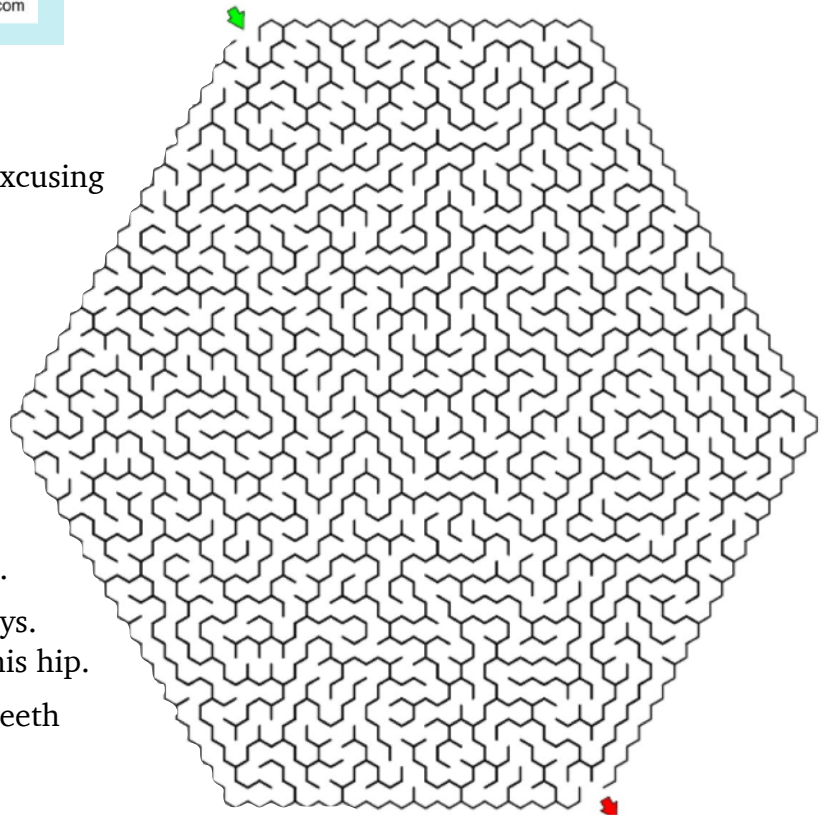
“That might be true,” said the travel agent, “but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked.”

“Well, at £50 an hour for a boat,” said the tourist, “it’s no wonder He walked.”

Parental excuses

These are actual ‘excuse notes’ from parents excusing their children from missing school (includes original spelling):

- ~ My son is under a doctor’s care and should not take PE. today. Please execute him.
- ~ Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.
- ~ Dear School: Please ekscuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.
- ~ Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.
- ~ John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.



Parish Office

Telephone: 01302 770240

Email: parishoffice@fabparish.org

Web: www.fabparish.org.uk

Facebook: [finningleychurch](https://www.facebook.com/finningleychurch) [stsavioursauckley](https://www.facebook.com/stsavioursauckley)

Twitter: [@finningleycofe](https://twitter.com/finningleycofe) [@auckleychurch](https://twitter.com/auckleychurch)

We also have a parish WhatsApp group. If you would like to join please text Hannah Redeyoff on 07875 500555