

The Rambling Rector

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



Bob - Refurnish - Gowns

Many, if not all of us, know the Venerable Bob Fitzharris, Archdeacon Emeritus of Doncaster, but what you may not know is that back in the mid-1990 he started a firm - no, not the Bentley Mafia, but Refurnish. Many incarnations later, it's still going strong as a unique and vibrant social enterprise in Doncaster, (check them out here www.refurnish.co.uk) but like many companies during COVID-19 they have had to shut down their primary business, however, they haven't stopped.

Bob continues with the story...

I thought that you might appreciate an update about my firm "Refurnish". We have had to shut down all our sites but we have not stopped.

We launched an online appeal, which is going wonderfully, to help us buy some appropriate fabric to enable our team of 200 volunteers (with over 40 waiting in the wings) to make scrubs for Doncaster Royal Infirmary. We have been able to source 2,000 metres of material and with our own existing stocks we are in the process of making 570 sets of scrubs for DRI staff at zero cost to the state. As long as we can keep getting hold of suitable material we will go on. A bit of good news in a bleak world.

God Bless,
Bob

Refurnish 
saving resources - enriching lives



News



Shaggy Dog
Story



Rectory
Revelation
Muted!

Bible Readings

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

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.

36 ‘Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.’

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’

38 Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.’

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ **41** Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.see decay.

Luke 24:13-35

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. **14** They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. **15** As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; **16** but they were kept from recognising him.

17 He asked them, ‘What are you discussing together as you walk along?’

They stood still, their faces downcast. **18** One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, ‘Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?’

19 ‘What things?’ he asked.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.



‘About Jesus of Nazareth,’ they replied. ‘He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. **20** The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; **21** but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. **22** In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning **23** but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. **24** Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.’

25 He said to them, ‘How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?’ **27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. **29** But they urged him strongly, ‘Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.’ So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.

31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. **32** They asked each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?’

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together **34** and saying, ‘It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.’ **35** Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

Paws For Thought

A Warden Rabbits On!

Our cat, Panda, wandered into our living room last evening with something in tow. Deborah thought it was a rat, however under closer inspection it turned out to be a baby rabbit!

The creature was totally unharmed and the cat seemed at a loss as to what to do with the thing next. Under orders I intervened and the rabbit is now fed, watered and resting in a temporary cage in our front room. All being well we are going to release it back into the wild.



Reflection by Margaret

Road to Emmaus

Cleopas and another person are on their way to Emmaus, we don't really know who that other person was, they could have been his wife or a friend. We do know that Cleopas was one of the large crowd of Jesus' followers.

Now Jesus was dead, things hadn't turned out how they thought they would; had he been the Messiah, had he changed things, Cleopas was finding it difficult to believe in anything.

So the followers of Jesus were frightened, in agony; what would happen to them?

The disciples had hidden themselves away and followers like Cleopas wanted to put as many miles between themselves and Jerusalem as they could.

So they're walking along this lonely road when they are joined by a stranger, where he has appeared from? They didn't know him maybe he was a spy for the authorities. They failed to recognise him (more of that in a minute).

The stranger speaks about the Jewish scriptures and Israel's suffering, the world's suffering which he'd been sent to save, to redeem mankind.

Still no recognition, it's not until the three of them stop in Emmaus and share a meal together that they realise who the stranger is, when he shares bread and wine with them.

Why didn't they recognise him sooner?

Unlike Lazarus Jesus had been transformed, he would never die again, he had become one with God. He was not a ghost or a slightly decayed body he was now in the likeness of God.

Jesus was no longer of this world but he was with Cleopas and his friend on that long road to Emmaus.

How often does Jesus walk alongside us and we don't realise he is there.

Cleopas is in despair, what to do now, he shared that despair with the stranger who says the answer is with God.

We can become like Cleopas, we can turn to Christ, we can bring our problems, our despair to him.

And at this time of crisis we need to do that, when everything seems black speak to Christ, I know I've had to do this more over the last few weeks when I've felt down.

We can be prepared to pray to Jesus, to call out to him.

We can wait in silence for his voice explain and leading us forward.

Jesus does not cure all the ills we face but he can give us courage and hope for the future.

Because when Jesus is with us we become part of God's world, his new creation.

That road to Emmaus is a beginning to a wonderful conclusion in a life with Christ by living out our Faith.

DIED

BURIED

RISEN

SEEN

St Oswald's Academy

Shooting for ther stars

Like many schools, St Oswald's Academy has remained open for the children of key workers. During this time Neil has made films of himself readings children's books, made an Easter service for YouTube, and recently video recorded a virtual assembly.

But what have school been up to? Headteacher, Mrs Patten, sent the following photos. See if you can spot Mrs Furness!!



That'll be Mrs Furness on the climbing frame!

Virtual Cafe 3.30 and Catalyst

Catalyst

Catalyst (our youth group for those aged 10-14 years old) took place virtually on Monday the 20th of April, for the first time, with 9 young people joining us, including one completely new young person who will be coming along in person when we are back to meeting physically. We had a catch up, heard what everyone has been up to and how they are doing during this time. We also played 'would you rather' answering questions such as would you rather... 'live in space or under the sea', 'stay forever at your current age or be 10 years younger', 'be completely invisible for one day or be able to fly for one day' and 'have a third eye or a third ear?' We will continue to meet virtually on the days that it should be Catalyst

Cafe 3.30

We have again produced a digital pack for this month's Cafe 3:30, called 'The Walls Came Tumbling Down' themed on Joshua and the walls of Jericho. In the pack is a link to a welcome video by Hannah, two songs; the Jericho song and Feels Good, both by Rend Co Kids, a link to a video telling the story, a suggested craft activity which is to make a 'Ram's Horn Trumpet,' a prayer activity, a challenge to build a wall with whatever materials they have at home and a closing prayer.



Not sure Alf would approve of that wall building!

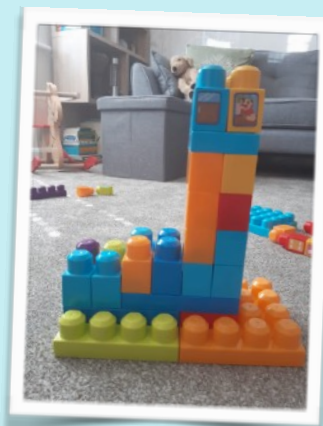


MAKES AROUND THE PARISHES



Ann Harriman made this 'ring of hope' on Easter Sunday

Whilst Jessica had a challenge from school. She had to build a famous landmark from building bricks. So, here is a fantastic Finningley Church, with Rev Neil at the top of the tower to put the lights up!



Finally, a rare shot, according to Barbara, of Tony Heaton at work, making the garden beautiful.



Rectory Revelation

TOP SECRET - THE RECTOR HAS A MUTE BUTTON!



UK Churchgoers, or rather church-not-goers, are beginning to worship at home throughout the nation. One feature they all say they "really could get used to" is the ability to mute any part of the service they don't like.

Church members, drunk with their newfound muting power, are turning off the volume entirely during songs and hymns they don't like.

"It's a great way to get through one of those 20 verse Ancient and Modern hymns" said Jasmin Stevens of Sheffield, whilst Morris Smedly from Hove stated that he could "now silence those happy clappy songs that usually keep" him awake. He added, "I'm really not looking forward to going back to in-person church, where we have to listen to every noisy song, over zealous leader, and dire sermon without muting the parts we find disagreeable."

Sermons are not immune to worshipers' new muting ability. 92% of Christians surveyed about their Zoom service habits admitted to muting the rector when they started talking about sin or hell, while 97% say they have just turned off the preacher when they have gone over 5 minutes. "Oh, look, it's 11.00am" said Fred Allison this past weekend as the vicars sermon broke the 6-minute mark. "See you next Sunday, rector!"

Tales from the organ loft

Before we moved to Doncaster from Suffolk in 2018, I was the organist at our local church and was playing for a funeral one day when I had what I can only describe as a terrifying experience.

I was playing some quiet, reflective music before the service, as you do, whilst the congregation was slowly assembling, and I suddenly became aware that some of the pedal notes on the organ were sounding in addition to the notes I was playing. Strange, I thought – it's never done that before, and so I glanced down at the pedal board beneath my feet.

There, poking round the end of the organ stool, was a greyish hairy arm, pushing down the pedals at the end of the pedal board. I have never removed myself from an organ stool with such speed as I did then.

Then, plucking up my courage, I looked more closely, and it was a cat! It had come into the church with the congregation, padded along the end of the pews to where the organ was sited at the back of the church, and obviously seeing my feet depressing the pedals, thought 'what fun! I can try that', and so he did. Needless to say, the cat was gently but firmly ejected from the church, I resumed my place on the organ stool and took up the music where I had left off.

We all laughed about it afterwards, but I can tell you, it was more than a shock – it was terrifying!

David Chenery



PRAYERS

17th Century Nun's Prayer.

Lord thou knowest better than I know myself that
I am growing older and will someday be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must
say something on every subject and on every
occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out
everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but
not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not
to use it all, but thou knowest Lord that I want a
few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from recital of endless details,
give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are
increasing and love of rehearsing them is
becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales
of other's pains, but help me to endure them with
patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a
growing humility and a lessening cocksureness
when my memory seems to clash with
the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I
may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a
saint (some of them are hard to live with) but a
sour old person is one of the crowning works of
the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in
unexpected places and
talents in unexpected people.

And give me the grace to tell them so.
Amen.

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.

Ron Dimbleby

Many of you will know that Edna Dimbleby's husband of 70 years, Ron, sadly passed away the other week. His son Trevor, has written the poem below about his Dad.

If I could tell a story it would be the greatest ever told,
of a wonderful loving father who had a heart of gold

They say there was a reason and time will heal the pain
but life since you passed away will never be the same

There are special memories that often makes me smile
how great it would be to have you back again if only for a while

The moment you were taken my heart was torn in two
half filled with heartache the other died with you

Remembering you is easy, I do it everyday, but missing
you is sorrow and will never go away

The fact that you're no longer here will always cause me pain,
but dad, you were the greatest, and with those special memories
forever in my heart although you're no longer here we're never far apart, until
we meet again, sleep well dad, I miss you.

Some Thoughts From Ven Bob Fitzharris

Sin and death and hell shall never o'er us final triumph gain

My maternal grandfather was a career soldier in the Royal Field Artillery. He served with distinction all over the world and, having completed 18 years' service, retired to civvy street in 1912 and, with his wife and children, returned to his beloved Ulster settling on the shores of Carlingford Loch where the Mountains of Mourne sweep down to the sea. He went into the family bakery business and enjoyed about 18 months of sheer bliss until World War 1 broke out and the world was changed, utterly. As a senior NCO his first task was to turn raw recruits into soldiers – he did and then went back into action, including Gallipoli. He served the Crown with distinction and survived the war without so much as a scratch. He was looking forward to returning home to his loved ones and back to County Down. What he did not realise was that at about the same time in November that the Armistice was being signed, his wife Elizabeth had died of Influenza in the great pandemic of 1918. She was 38. Albert was never quite the same again – no help was ever offered in those days.

My mother, aged 16, became the mother of the family and was effectively a mother until her death in 1975. Devastated though they were, the sisters determined that no virus was going to be allowed to destroy them as a family. It worked because they pulled together and saw each other most weeks. We would often eat together on Sunday afternoons and, as a selfish boy during food rationing, I resented this invasion by my aunts and their families as we all sat down to tinned salmon and cling peaches with Carnation evaporated milk. That was until my mother told me that it was my aunties who were bringing the food – I have never forgotten that lesson. I had been too judgemental. It was love that enabled my mother's family to survive through almost unimaginable problems.

We will survive this terrible Covid 19 onslaught. We will come through this and emerge on the other side changed; I pray. Changed and with a greater love for other human beings and God's creation. People who realise what is important and what is totally irrelevant. People who can hold the hands of those who suffer pain and loss. Yes, we must hold hands again one day. In the meantime, let us keep in touch with each other in safe ways – my telephone has never been as busy.

Charles Wesley wrote that Jesus: "Emptied himself of all but love."

I then add to his words those of Timothy Rees, Bishop of Llandaff and former Principal of the Theological College in Mirfield, Yorkshire:

"Sin and death and hell shall never o'er us final triumph gain; God is love, so love forever o'er the universe must reign"

Amen to that,

Love and prayers, Bob

LOCKDOWN LETTER FROM YOUR DOG.....

Dear Hoomans



I have noticed over the past couple of weeks you have been staying in my home for extended periods of time. It is lovely having you here but I feel I should set a few ground rules. I would appreciate it if you would follow the rules whilst you are staying with me.

1. When you do pop out you will need to take me with you.
2. You seem to be eating lots of nice goodies whilst lazing about the house. I am entitled to a share of these. I won't make a fuss I will just sit in front of you and quietly stare at you until I get my quota.
3. Don't call me for another bath, I am clean now. Just because you are bored doesn't mean I need a wash or haircut. I suggest you go clean the metal box on wheels outside again. Daddy human has done that a few times now even though it hasn't moved in weeks.
4. As you are here constantly at the moment, it is your duty to let me out as often as I require. That means that even if I have just come in and want to go out again you should let me. Sometimes I miss a spot whilst sniffing about and I need to recheck.
5. When I am asleep, leave me sleeping, this isn't a cue for the little humans to play with me. I can also sleep where I like, I don't expect to be woken so you can move me.
6. Do not shhhh me when I am barking. As you are here more, my job of protecting you has increased. I have to listen out for every little noise and inform you of it in case it's a threat.
7. Don't leave a room without me, I know how sneaky you guys can be. Just the other day I am sure I heard a crisp packet being opened upstairs and no one called me to share. So from now on I will be following you about.
8. This is a very important rule. If it lands on the floor it's MINE, if it's in my mouth it's MINE.
9. You will never pee alone again, you watch me pee so I do not understand why you shut me out and close the loo door when you pee.
10. If you do not follow these rules I will use SAD PUPPY DOG EYES TO GET WHAT I WANT !!

More words of encouragement

**Therefore encourage one another
and build each other up, just as in
fact you are doing.**

(1 Thessalonians 5 v 11)
God bless, stay safe, Sybil

QUIZ TIME

A different type of brain teaser this week, sent in by Mrs Patten, head teacher, at St Oswald's Academy. If you get them all reward yourself with a virtual chocolate bar - they're calorie free!

A Chocolate Quiz

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. The red planet | 13. 10 cents |
| 2. Wise guys | 14. Pigs tails |
| 3. Eastern pleasure | 15. Dine al fresco |
| 4. A breed of dog | 16. Fragrant flowers |
| 5. Our galaxy | 17. Bug cats go there for a drink |
| 6. All because... | 18. Straight from the cow |
| 7. Up market thoroughfare | 18. Stickier than salt and vinegar |
| 8. Subject of conversation | 20. Nutty way to urge a horse |
| 9. Speak softly | 21. It's Terry's not mine. |
| 10. Made of corn or soap | 22. Gentle wave |
| 11. Gravel under foot | 23. Ford people carrier |
| 12. Amplify | 24. Won't keep you done up in the heat |

What Is Worship?

Jago Wynne wrote.

"Worship is about what I say with my tongue. It's about what I watch....what I think... where I go with my feet. Worship can involve singing, but it can't be just about singing. It's got to be about something more. Worship is about honouring God. We do that in how we live. Every kind deed we do, every act of mercy, every moment of humility, selflessness and generosity makes God smile. That's worship."

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.

Live Services

Don't forget that every Sunday at 10.00am we are using Zoom to join together to worship. 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 07875 500555.

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO A SECURITY UPDATE OUR LINK BELOW, MEETING ID HAVE CHANGED. THE PASSWORD REMAINS UNCHANGED

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5963138891?pwd=WnFWVHlBbnhkLy9xZUVtMHP4V1J5dz09>

Meeting ID: 596 313 8891

Password: FABParish

Blooming Lovely

Earth Day 2020

This spring Honesty has gone mad in our garden which has been ablaze with purples and whites (see photo). Honesty is a biennial that grows into a small plant in its first year and develops into its mature state and flowers in its second year. I will pull many of them up after their flowers have faded but still leave plenty where I want them so that in winter I can enjoy their silvery seed pods once their seeds have fallen lit up by the low winter sun.



Many biennials such as Wallflowers and Foxgloves have very pretty, sometimes fragrant flowers and are, in their original form, British native flowers and as such are great plants to grow to benefit our insect pollinators. I've seen butterflies, bees and hoverflies regularly visiting my Honesty flowers. Honesty is especially important for our pretty Orange Tip butterfly as it is one of the food plants of their larvae. Another is one of our churchyard specials, the delicate little Lady's Smock, or Cuckoo Flower, that will be coming into flower around this time too. In our very dry garden it grows around the pond.



As I write this today, Wednesday 22nd April, is Earth Day 2020 (the 50th anniversary no less) when we are asked to think of our planet and pledge to look after it in a more environmentally friendly way. Although it will have passed when you read this it is not too late to think about ways in which we can help to look after the world around us. While we are all at home on lock down during these lovely sunny days it is the ideal time to think about what we can do in our own gardens to look after God's creation. Planting native biennials is one way. In the next few weeks I will make some other suggestions.

Tricia

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