

The Rambling Rector

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



Rogation Sunday

Beating the Bounds

Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

In about 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God.

On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

THIS WEEK



Funnies
One Liners



Photos
Mosaic
Encouragement



**Rectory
Revelation**
A True Confession



At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation is said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At some point beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds.' It was still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly, parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. Do you know ours?

Bible Readings

Acts 17:22-31

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. **23** For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

24 'The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. **25** And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. **26** From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. **27** God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. **28** "For in him we live and move and have our being."^[a] As some of your own poets have said, "We are his offspring."^[b]

29 'Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by human design and skill. **30** In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. **31** For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.'

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

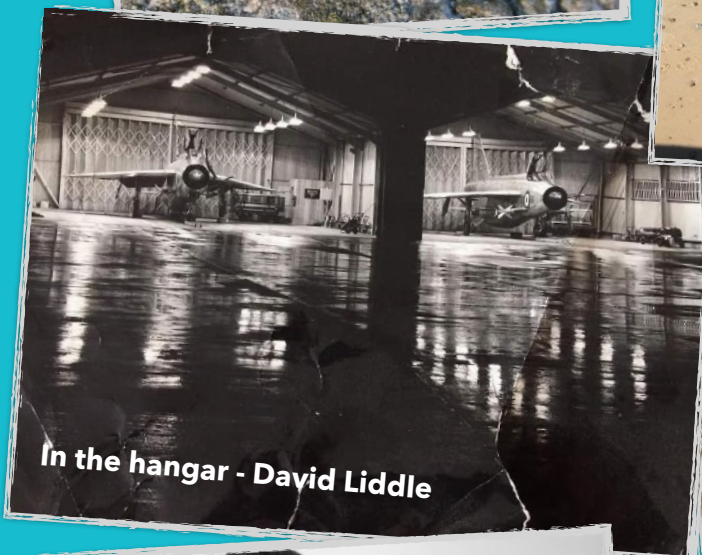
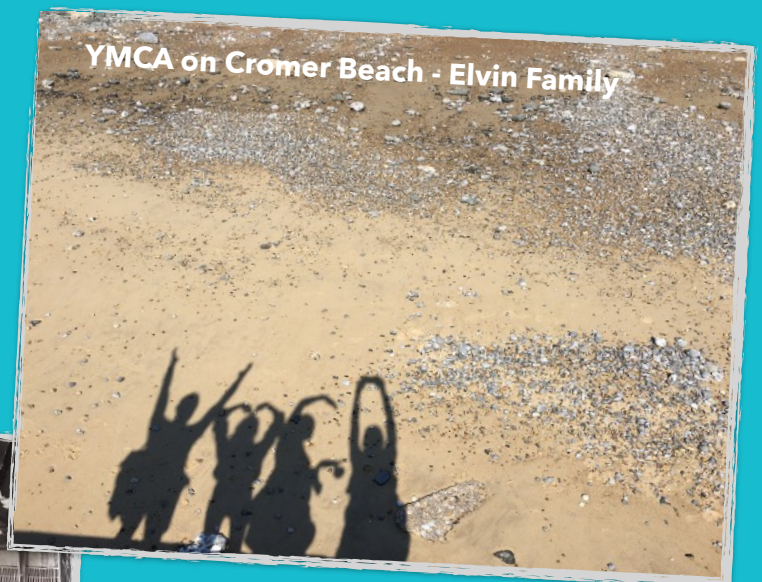


John 14:15-21

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

15 'If you love me, keep my commands. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – **17** the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. **18** I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. **19** Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. **20** On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. **21** Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'

Parish Photos Theme: Shadows



Reflection - by Margaret

This week's gospel follows on closely from last week. Jesus is reiterating to the disciples that he is going to the Father, he's returning to God's kingdom.

The disciples have to be told things several times. They had Jesus with them alongside them but still they got confused, so it's not surprising that we get confused about what Jesus is saying and what it means for us today.

Jesus is warning the disciples that he will be returning to his Father,

BUT

He is leaving a helper behind to help with their faith and enabling them to continue his ministry. This helper will be with them at all times and then be with fellow Christians to the end of time. This helper will be an advocate between Christians and God and between Christians and non believers.

The Spirit of Jesus will be a helper, an advocate, and a comforter.

- A helper to assist us, to give us the strength to minister to others.
- An advocate to plead our case, to stand with Christians when they face persecution for their Faith.
- A comforter - in these times of crisis we need to feel that comfort which comes from knowing we are part of God's family. A comforter who will put his arms around us and give us a hug, at the moment we can't hug others even though they may be in great distress, this in itself causes us distress.

A hug, a kind word can mean so much, so just hold on to those kind words with the reassurance that the hugs will come later. I know I have lots of hugs to give out when all this lockdown is over.

BUT

When we call to God, when we sit in silence and wait we can and will hear his voice of reassurance and feel his presence with us.

Whatever we ask for we need to ask in Jesus name, not just saying those words but getting to know who Jesus is, being drawn into his life, his love, his sense of purpose.

Anything is possible through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit just have Faith and Believe.

The last three verses give us some promises.

We will see Jesus face to face, we will live his new life.

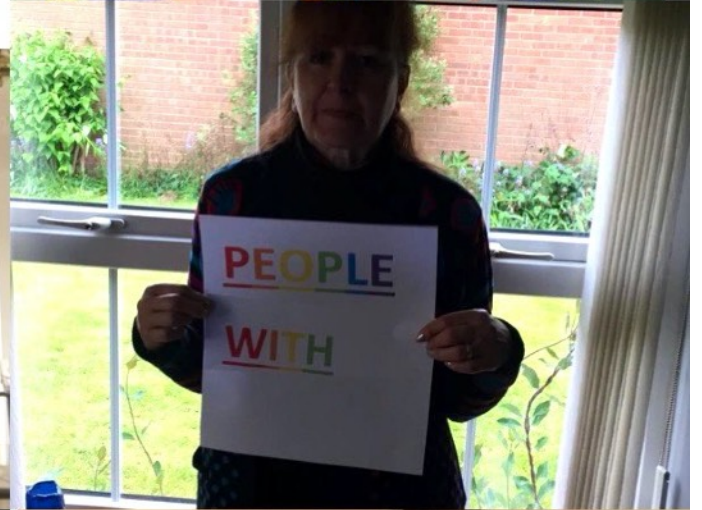
We will know that Jesus and the father are one and through our Faith we are one with them.

We as Christians are called to be part of that circle. We can work through our Faith so that others would come to know the love of God.

At this time of crisis more people are turning to God, to hear services of the word and to pray to him.

Our hope is that they find him and have their Faith confirmed, renewed and restored. That God can live in them as he lives in us.

We need to hold on and have Faith in God after all with him everything is possible. Amen



Easter Raffle

The belated Easter Raffle will be drawn after this Sunday's Zoom service. So, huge thanks to everyone who contributed and bought tickets, and for bearing with us whilst we worked out how to proceed.

After costs we raised £400.46 for Finningley Church funds.



Beautiful Burial Ground Project



St Oswald's was to host a workshop in our Churchyard this summer. As you will have guessed, that now can't take place. However, we hope to be involved next year. Tricia wrote to the organisations.

"I would be more than happy to be involved again. I've attached a few photos that I took of the churchyard when I called in last week for the first time in 7 weeks to see how it was looking. I was surprised how well it looked. It was in its buttercup and blossom phase with Bulbous Buttercups everywhere, growing most thickly along pathways that would normally be mown, something that I've noticed before, and blossom on Hawthorns, Bird Cherry and our wild apple tree. I think all the hot weather will have held back the growth rate. However now we've had a little rain that might change."



Rectory Revelation

Loud Music

This is a true story and made it into the local press at the time...

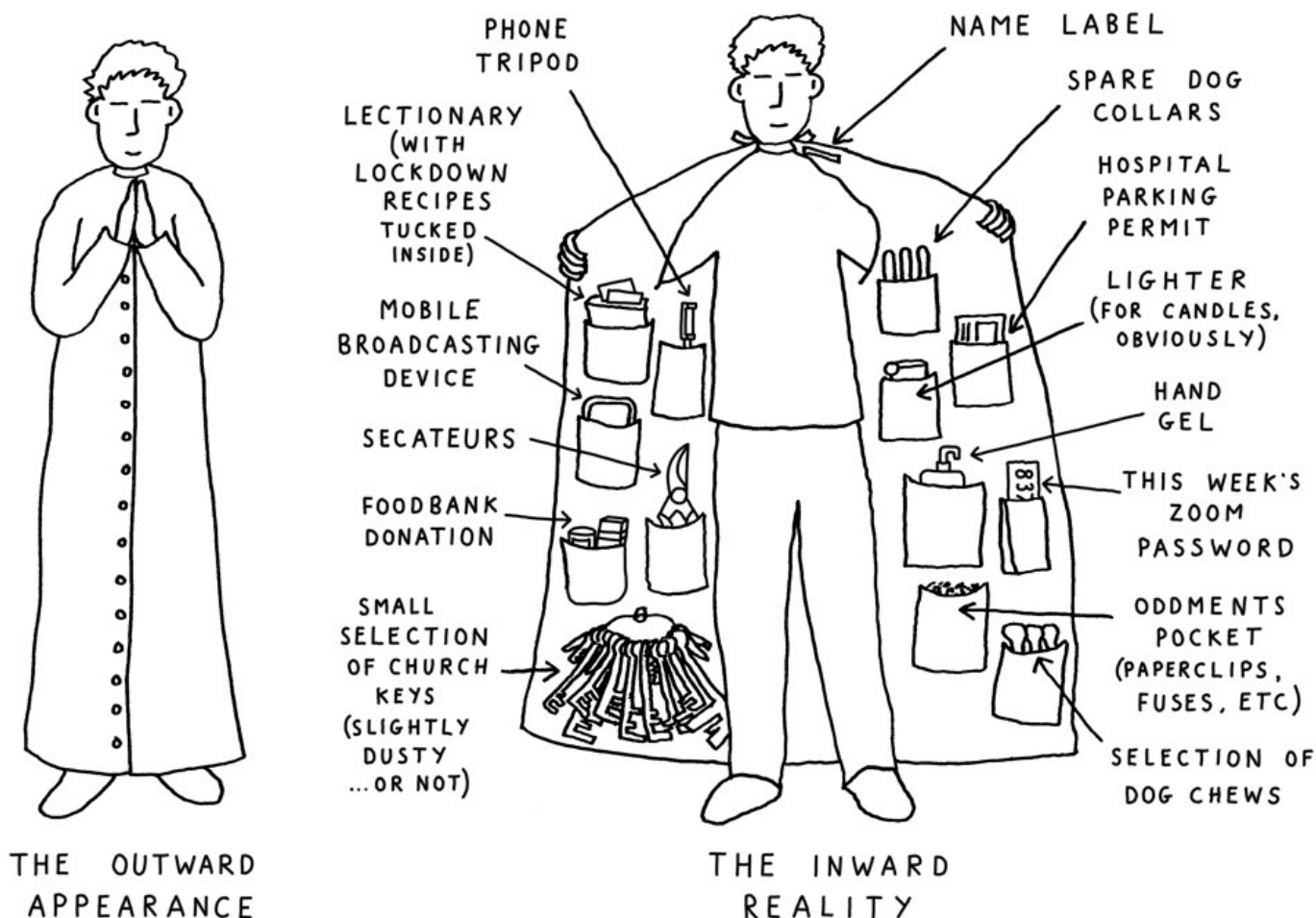
I served my curacy in Runcorn, and the local crematorium was quite a drive away. One hot summers day, wearing full cassock and surplice, I was heading to the crematorium and the sweat was dripping off me. Sadly, as a poor curate straight from theological college our car didn't have air conditioning, and so on the drive I wound all the windows down to try and cool off a bit before the committal. So, with radio playing, windows down, and preaching scarf in the wind, I made my way to Walton Lea Crematorium.

It did the trick, I began to cool down, the drive was long but easy, and the radio was playing some great tunes.

I made good time, and pulled into the 'reserved for clergy' spot. I soon became aware I was being watched, indeed, I was being stared at by a group of people (pre-social distancing). Why were they looking at me...then I realised. Travelling down the by-pass at 70mph, with the windows open, is very noisy, so I'd turned the radio up, then pulled into the carpark. It was bad enough that clergyman was playing very loud music at the crematorium, but the song playing made it even worse - 'Great Balls of Fire' - oops!

Lesson learned!

THE CASSOCK



Prayers

With A Celtic Feel

Christ as a light illumine and guide me.
Christ as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me.
Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day within and without me, lowly and meek yet all powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks to me.
This day be within and without me, lowly and meek yet all powerful.
Christ as a light.
Christ as a shield.
Christ beside me on my left and right hand.

A Candle Prayer

God wherever you are
I have no words to pray
I am in the darkness,
Aching lost in pain.
As I light my candle,
I reach out to you
For my family and friends,
For the world around me,
For myself.
Give me strength to face another day.
Shine your light into my dark places
And let me know I am not alone.

All that I am, Lord
I place into your hand.
All that I do, Lord
I place into your hands.
Everything I work for.
I place into your hands.
Everything I hope for
I place into your hands.
The troubles that weary me
I place into your hands.
The thoughts that disturb me
I place into your hands.
Each that I pray for
I place into your hands.
Each that I care for
I place into your hands
I place into your hands, Lord
the choices that I face.



EVERY GOOD GIFT
— AND —
EVERY PERFECT GIFT
IS FROM ABOVE

JAMES 1:17

VE Day Poem

The sound of the war,
Banging, crashing and thuds,
The Silence to be abroad,
Were to be prayed for the Lord,
Stop this war,
But people were begging for more,
Cheers and moods were enlightened,
And never to be tightened nor frightened,
They say,
Peace and victory for all,
Or was it for all,
From this very day,
The war ended,
And known to be VE Day,
But was there going to be more....

Beau-Lillie Cunningham aged 10
Year 5

CAR TROUBLE

Just a reminder about your car during the lockdown. One of our parishioners hasn't used their car since March. This week they discovered the battery was totally flat, and possibly ruined.

There is plenty of advice online about what to do when not using your vehicle at all, or very little, so it's worth checking it out.

Apparently Quik Fit are doing a great trade in new batteries at the moment!



DID YOU KNOW

Did you know it was International Nurses Day on May 12th just gone and it is also the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale?

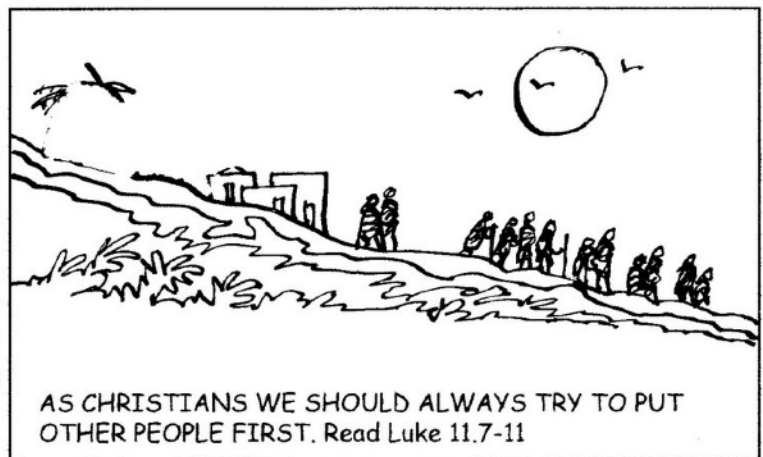
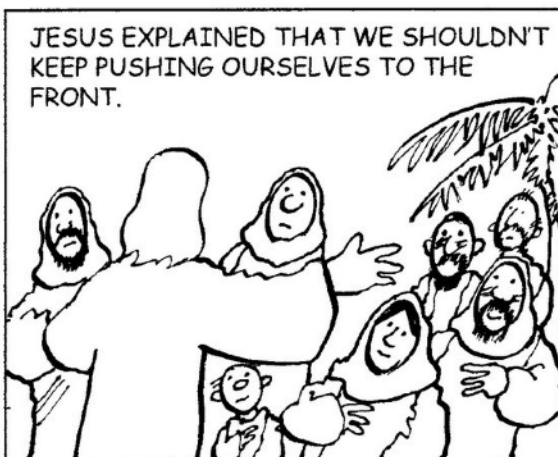
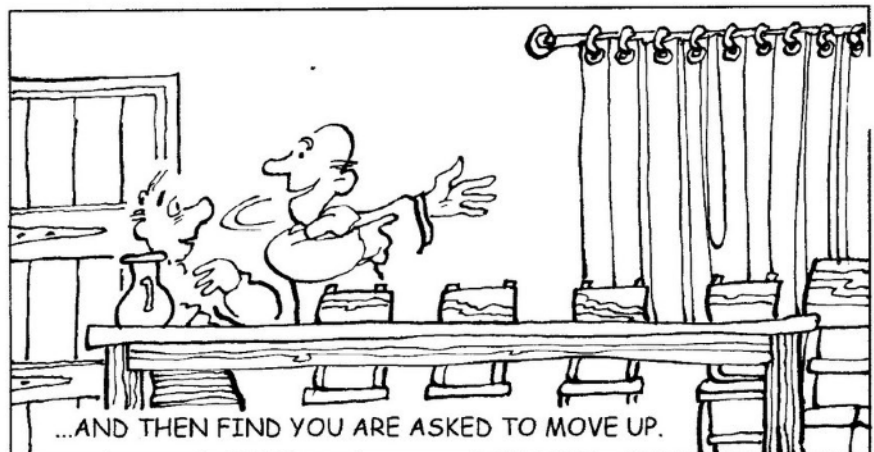
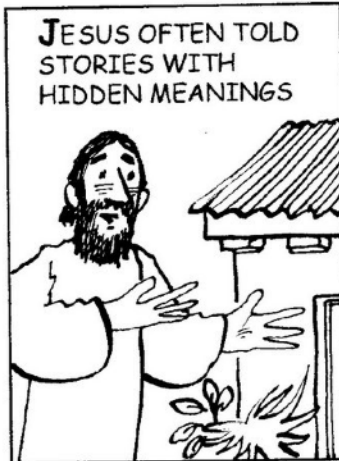
The Nation was asked to "shine a light" at 8.30pm to celebrate the work of nurses all over the World.

To all nurses we say a huge thank you.

A Nurses Prayer

Give me strength and wisdom,
When others need my touch;
A soothing word to speak to them,
Their hearts yearn for so much.
Give me joy and laughter,
To lift a weary soul;
Pour in me compassion,
To make the broken whole.
Give me gentle, healing hands,
For those left in my care;
A blessing to those who need me,
This is a Nurse's prayer.





Word Search

Coronavirus has turned our world upside down. But God is still there, and we can call on Him, as Psalm 91 (vs 1-6) reminds us...

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

*² I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."*

*³ Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.*

*⁴ He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

*⁵ You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,*

*⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday*

dwells

shelter

most

high

shadow

almighty

refuge

fortress

trust

save

snare

night

arrow

plague

destroys

deadly

pestilence

cover

feathers

wings

faithfulness

shield

rampart

fear

terror

E D W E L L S G S T R I E
C E E I F E S R E A D H D
N S H E L T E R E F U G E
E T A I I V R P S Y R T A
L R W R O O T R R T A D D
I O T C R C R A E H M M L
T Y S H A D O W H G P P Y
S S E N L U F H T I A F P
E W U E A D E S A M R G L
P M I R N R O N E L T R A
A H R N T M E L F A S R G
S O T H G I N H G I H E U
W E E V A S I T S F N R E

DAD JOKES - YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

What time of day was Adam created?
Just a little before Eve.

Who was the fastest runner in the race?
Adam. He was first in the human race.

Why are atoms Anglo-Catholic?
Because they all have mass.

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
Because Noah was always standing on the deck

Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?
He only had two worms.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?
No — just an apple.

Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?
He just knew there was something fishy about it.

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?
Absolutely ruthless.

Please send me your picture and news

The Rambling Rector has become very popular during our lockdown, especially amongst those who live alone, have no internet, and are isolating.

It's only possible through everyone's input, so I would really appreciate it if you would continue to send me pictures, stories, thoughts, reflections, news, so we can keep this valuable resource available.

I need to get copies in the mail by last post Wednesday as I understand Saturday delivery is to be suspended. Many thanks. Neil



“God is present in the midst of all the chaos that surrounds us.”- Henri Nouwen

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.

THE DIRECT LINK TO JOIN AND THE MANUAL DETAILS ARE BELOW

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5963138891?pwd=WnFWVHlBbnhkLy9xZUVtMHp4V1J5dz09>

Crossword Solution for May 10th

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | A | R | E | | P | A | R | A | D | I | S | E | |
| O | | E | | | R | | F | | O | | | D | |
| N | U | L | L | | P | R | O | F | A | N | E | D | |
| F | | I | | A | | E | | L | | A | | Y | |
| L | E | G | A | L | I | S | T | I | C | | | | |
| I | | I | | L | | T | | C | | P | | A | |
| C | L | O | S | E | D | | S | T | O | R | E | S | |
| T | | N | | G | | A | | I | | E | | S | |
| | | | | M | I | S | S | I | O | N | A | R | Y |
| S | | D | | A | | O | | N | | C | | R | |
| C | O | V | E | N | A | N | T | | T | H | A | I | |
| O | | L | | C | | O | | | | E | | A | |
| T | R | A | D | E | O | F | F | | E | D | E | N | |

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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