

# The Rambling Rector

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



## Ascension Day:

### 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection!

### THIS WEEK



#### Ascension

What Goes Up Must  
Come Down



#### Photos

Pics From Around  
the Parishes



#### Rectory Revelation

Taking Weddings

Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

## Bible Readings

### Acts 1:6-14

**6** Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

**7** He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

**9** After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

**10** They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. **11** 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

**12** Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. **13** When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. **14** They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

### PRAYER FOR TODAY

Risen, ascended Lord,  
as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin  
may find forgiveness and know your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen



## John 17:1-11

After Jesus said this, he looked towards heaven and prayed:

‘Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. **2** For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. **3** Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **4** I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. **5** And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

**6** ‘I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. **7** Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. **8** For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. **9** I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. **10** All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. **11** I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

**Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.**

## Reflection - by Neil

Despite the lock down and closed schools, many pupils and students will leave their familiar educational establishments behind and move on. Some to college or university, but a good number into the world of work. They will have spent many years learning and growing with the ultimate aim of going out into the world to live and work in the hopes of eventual success. Some will know exactly what they want to do for the rest of their lives, having known since childhood, whilst others will still be trying to decide what they want to do.

It's a time of great change. They will look back at their accomplishments and look forward to the possibilities they face. Friends will go in different directions, and hopefully, despite COVID19, new courses and jobs will commence.

Life out in the world is different to the life inside the bubble of education. Try saying to the boss, "It was them. They made me do it!" or, "Sorry that clients work isn't finished, the dog ate my spreadsheet." Out in the world we don't have anyone to blame when things go wrong, and it's less likely that anyone will bail us out when we run into trouble.

**It's time to stand on our own two feet...and the same sort of moment happened to the disciples.**

The day had to arrive when Jesus wouldn't be with them in flesh anymore, when they would carry out the work of the Kingdom on their own. It was a daunting task that Jesus called them to do, to share forgiveness with the world - a world that didn't want to hear the message of the Gospel, because it turned their whole understanding of God upside down. Jesus told them repeatedly that he would have to leave, but I'm not sure they thought about it much until that moment when he was gone.

Jesus spent three years with the disciples before he died on the cross. Then he spent forty days with them, giving final instructions and showing he was truly alive and risen from the dead. Once again he promised them the power they would receive when they were baptised by the Holy Spirit, and Luke tells us that Jesus opened their minds to the scriptures, and everything that he'd taught them over those three years and forty days was finally making sense. Now it was time for Jesus to go to God and sit on his right hand, and he was taken into heaven, bodily raised from the earth into the clouds right before their eyes. They had seen Jesus do many miraculous things, this was just one more, but there was something very important about that moment.



The Ascension of Christ  
By Rembrandt

When Jesus ascended it left little room to question the nature of this man they had known for three years. This was God in flesh, worthy of their worship and praise. This was also the moment that he left them alone, seemingly abandoning them with nothing but a promise of a helper to come. He sent them into the world to share the Kingdom of God, but would no longer be there to pick them up after they fell. It was up to them to do the work they were called to do. It was perhaps no wonder that they stopped and stared into the heavens for a moment. It would have been easy to stay right there, at that spot, and continue looking toward heaven for Jesus' return.

But, Jesus didn't intend for them to wallow in the past and wait for the future. There are times in our own lives when the familiar is left behind. Times when we can identify with the feelings they must have had at that moment when Christ was taken away. It's easy to want to gape at the clouds and hope for his return, so that things don't have to change. But they were called to live in that day, to worship him by doing the work he had called them to do - taking the forgiveness of sins to a dying world.

And that is our job today. Things have changed for all of us, the familiar has been left behind. We can stand and look back at what once was, or we can look forward and embrace the promised helper (more on that next week) and do our work for the Kingdom.

**'you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,  
and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the  
ends of the earth.'**

# Cafe

@FINNINGLEY  
CHURCH

# 3:30

# CATALYST

Fun Faith Friendship

# DYNAMITE

CATALYST and DYNAMITE continue to 'meet' alternatively on Monday evenings, over Zoom. Starting with a general catch up, hearing what everyone has been up to, what they are struggling with, or what has been positive. We then do some kind of quiz or activity. During this weeks Catalyst two young people who usually come engaged online for the first time, of course the online engagement isn't anywhere like the number of young people that come to the in person group, but we had a great time with 7 young people.

This Sunday would have been Cafe 3:30, so again we have produced a digital pack, themed on 'There's a Hole in the Roof!' which is of course the story of Jesus healing a paralysed man after he was lowered through the ceiling by his friends. This includes all the usual things that make up Cafe 3:30.

All of the young people from CATALYST and DYNAMITE and families from Cafe 3:30 have received a postcard through the post, these have been very well received and we will be doing another round of them: "Thank you so very much for the lovely postcard Hannah. Jessie absolutely loved it and is so excited about getting back to Cafe 3.30 when we can. Thank you for all of your ongoing support and hard work in these difficult times. Love from us all xxx"

There will hopefully be photographs in our June Youth and Family Workers newsletter so watch out for that in the next week or so. If you would like to receive it by email, or a paper copy with your copy of the Rambling Rector if you let Neil or Hannah know we will add you to the mailing list for Hannah's newsletter.

**DEAR FRIENDS, LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER,  
FOR LOVE COMES FROM GOD.** (1 John 4 v 7)



<b>1st</b>	<b>00093</b>	12	00252
<b>2nd</b>	<b>00171</b>	13	00315
<b>3rd</b>	<b>00334</b>	14	00030
4	00019	15	00393
5	00372	16	00423
6	00329	17	00184
7	00490	18	00396
8	00440	19	00317
9	00076	20	00479
10	00262	21	00311
11	00313	22	00327

# Rectory Revelation

## Wedding Bliss

Over the last 19 years I've lost counts of how many weddings I've taken. But some will always be memorable...

The one where I'd just pronounced them husband and wife, and the couple were sat at the chancel step and I said, "Let me be the first to congratulate Mr & Mrs Jones."

The bride retorted snappily, "Bishop-Jones!"

"You didn't tell me!" replied the groom.

"Well I'm telling you now!!"

They then had their first domestic as a married couple in front of everyone!

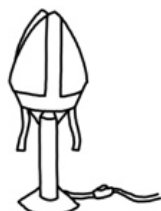
Or the one where a drunken uncle sang a special wedding song in a musical key of his choice, and one so unique neither the organist or myself had ever heard it before. We reached the point where the organist gave up trying to play, and I stepped in to prevent further damage to everyone's ears.

# MITRES

## USES DURING A PANDEMIC



MASK



LAMPSHADE



POPCORN  
HOLDER



HANGING  
BASKET



GLOVE



PIPING BAG



MEASURING  
DEVICE



OVEN MITT



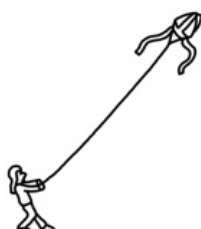
TEA COSY



BUNTING



WASTE PAPER  
BASKET



KITE



PUPPET



BELLOWS



RAINBOW

# Praying - Thy Kingdom Come



## Five ways to get involved in Thy Kingdom Come 2020

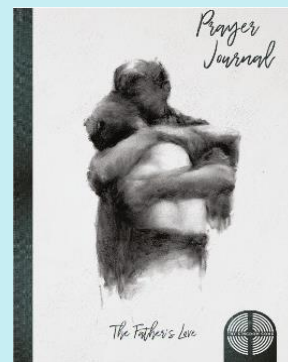


### Digital Resources

We have a number of digital resources to equip churches and individuals which can be shared with congregations for download and print at home.

The innovative [Family Prayer Adventure Map](#). Once printed, download the free app\* to access games, reflections and augmented reality! You can see Archbishop Justin trying it out [here](#) (pre-lockdown).

Our [Prayer Journal](#) for the 11 days has poignant reflections, Bible verses and actions, and features artwork from Charlie Mackesy.



The free Thy Kingdom Come App\* has daily videos, bible readings, reflections, and podcasts from N.T Wright. The Thy Kingdom Come [Video Library](#) also has over 200 videos to download, including reflections and testimonies from influential Christians such as the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, His Holiness Pope Francis, as well as many others.



### Pray Together

Praying together for people to come to know the love, hope and peace found in Christ is at the heart of Thy Kingdom Come. Could your church set up regular daily patterns of prayer, perhaps via conference call, to hold these people in prayer or adapt existing prayer times to do so? Or you could commit to saying the Lord's Prayer at a set time each day. A number of digital resources are also available [here](#).

### Continuous Prayer

Consider hosting or participating in a continuous virtual prayer event. You could do this as a local church, or connect with others across other denominations or in different parts of the world. You can find 24-7 Prayer resources and virtual prayer rooms [here](#).

### Light Up your Town or Village in Prayer

Jesus Christ is the light of the world and we are called to be the light of the world as we bear His image. Could you encourage Christians in your area to commit to lighting up the world in prayer during these 11 days? Visit the 'Light Up the World' [prayer section](#) on our website to find resources to equip you/your church to take part.



### Prayer and Care

People have shown immense love and kindness as they serve the most vulnerable during this unprecedented time. As a result, we are introducing a new strand to this year's Thy Kingdom Come. As we pray for those we know and love to become followers of Jesus, how could we safely and responsibly demonstrate this practically? Order this [Prayer and Care pack](#) for your household, or send one to friends and family to encourage them to join in.



A man goes into the iron-mongers shop and tells the shop keeper, "I want some nails"

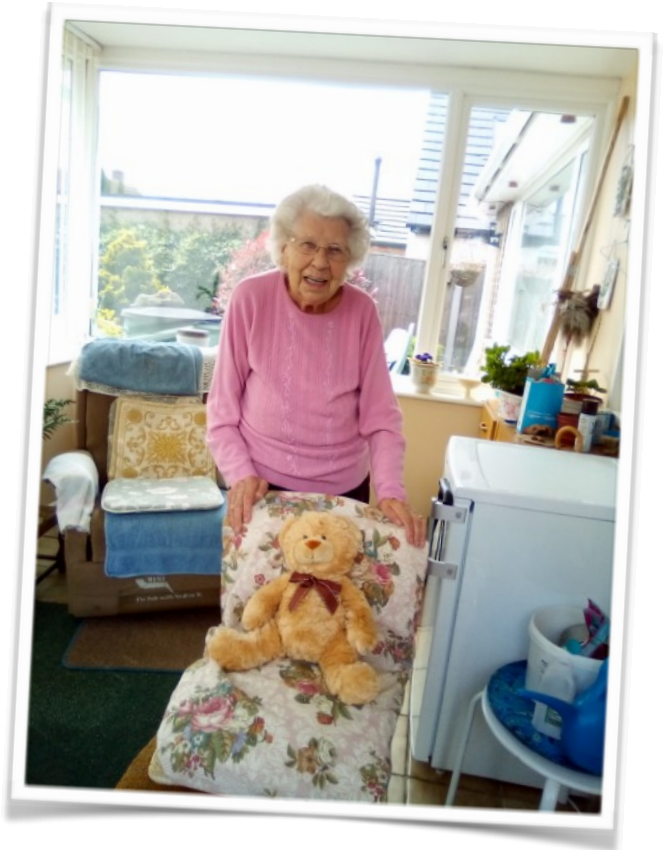
The shop keeper says, "How long do you want them?"

The man says, "I want to keep them"

Mary Wright sent some photos of grandson Braddon helping in the garden.

The underside of a Orange Tipped Butterfly (we think)

An unauthorised indoor VE Day party! Don't tell Boris!!



Many of you will know Jean from St Saviours. Sadly, she had a fall and so her little dog, Barnie, (who once ate Neil's shoelaces) went on his holidays for a while until Jean could walk him again. Then COVID19 struck, and so Jean is all alone whilst Barnie is on an extended vacation!

Not to be beaten she talks to Bertie the bear, who apparently doesn't ever answer back, never needs feeding and doesn't leave little gifts on the back lawn!



## What a difference a week makes

Last week I wrote about the churchyard being in its “buttercups and blossom phase” when I called in earlier in the month, with white and yellow the predominant colours. Now the apple, cherry and May blossom is mostly over though the yellow of the buttercups still colours our churchyard. However, the white colour can now be seen in the frothy flowers of Cow Parsley, or Queen Anne’s Lace as it is more prettily known, which is still making a lovely show around the perimeter of the churchyard and also in the cheerful daisy flowers of Ox-eye Daisies that are starting to open now all around the churchyard and making a good display in front of the church.

If you are taking a walk round the village why not call in and take a few minutes to look around and listen. You may see a butterfly or two, or hear the bees buzzing as they feed on the tiny Cotoneaster flowers. The Rooks may be noisily feeding their young but when I was there on Tuesday afternoon I was serenaded by a Chaffinch and a Chiffchaff singing its name. If you take the time you will certainly be aware of the beauty and wonder that is God’s creation.

Tricia.



## He lets me rest in green meadows

Psalm 23:2

## NEWS UPDATES FROM BISHOP PETE & BISHOP DESIGNATE SOPHIE

Psalm 67, reminds us that if we (the people of God) ask the LORD to bless us, it is so that his blessing will reach to the ends of the earth. This has been God's pattern, since at least the call of Abraham (Genesis 12.1-3) and arguably since the creation of Adam (Genesis 1.27-28): God blesses individuals and communities, in order that through them his blessing might extend to all the families of the earth. This has been God's pattern, since at least the call of Abraham (Genesis 12.1-3) and arguably since the creation of Adam (Genesis 1.27-28): God blesses individuals and communities, in order that through them his blessing might extend to all the families of the earth. So in Psalm 67, the Psalmist prays that God will be gracious to Israel and will bless 'us' - but why? Not so that Israel might be uniquely privileged, but rather so that God's saving power might be known 'among all nations'. What the Psalmist longs for is not just the wellbeing of his own community, but for all the nations of the world to be glad and sing for joy. Nothing less will be a worthy celebration of all the blessings God showers upon the human race.

As 'lockdown' enters its 9th week, it can be hard for us to maintain a large vision: as we are confined, it is all too easy for our vision to become small. If so, it might be worth an intentional effort in prayer this week, to call to mind the ultimate fulfilment of all God's purposes for creation, for which we will be longing with particular urgency between Ascension Day and the Feast of Pentecost, as we pray 'Thy Kingdom Come'. As followers of our Lord Jesus, we look forward to the time when God will 'wipe every tear from our eyes, when death will be no more, and mourning and crying and pain will be no more - when the home of God will be with humankind, when he will dwell with us and we will be his people' (Revelation 21.3-4). May God sustain us with that vision in these challenging days.

### Sheffield Cathedral Fire

Most of you will be aware that the Cathedral suffered an arson attack last week. If that, in itself, was a calamity, we are nevertheless aware that it could have been much worse and for that blessing we are grateful to God.

Dean Peter writes: "The Cathedral Chapter would like to thank you for your prayers and many expressions of good wishes following the fire on Thursday evening. It is particularly painful that this was a result of arson. An arrest has now been made.

Very prompt action by South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue prevented a catastrophe. The fire had a good hold on the Domino Hall—now used for adult training by the Cathedral Archer Project—but mercifully was stopped in time. There is a lot of damage to our electrics, heating, and alarm systems caused by the water used to douse the fire. There's been no direct damage to the Cathedral proper except for very extensive smoke ingress.

### Welcome to the Revd Javaid Iqbal, Acting Archdeacon of Doncaster

It was a great joy and delight on Saturday afternoon to licence Javaid [over Zoom]. Given the constraints of meeting remotely, it was an occasion full of a sense of the presence of God. It was a blessing!

Javaid will now be playing as full a part in the life of the Diocese as current restrictions allow. He hopes soon to move into the vicarage in Barnby Dun and in due course we look forward to a service of installation in the Cathedral Church.

### Use of Church Buildings

It is possible, but not certain, that Government advice next week will enable us to commence some rites and ceremonies with minimal congregations, such as weddings and in that case we will offer further guidance in due course.

For now you are asked to hold the line: solitary clergy and lay ministers may enter our churches for private prayer or to record/live-stream public worship.

# Pray For Our Schools

St Oswald's and our other local school have remained open during lockdown. You can see some rainbow experiments and team building games below (please note that only siblings are together!)

However, we know that the schools have now been tasked with reopening in the next few weeks. Please pray for all those involved in making this happen - headteachers, all the staff, parents, governors and the Department of Education. That safety, wisdom, and good sense would be paramount and prevail.



## 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](mailto: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>

Meeting ID: 596 313 8891

Password: FABParish

### Parish Office

Telephone: 01302 770240

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Web: [www.fabparish.org.uk](http://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