

The Rambling Rector

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



.... celebrating our God who is Three Persons

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are of the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

Deuteronomy 6:4: 'Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'

Isaiah 45:22: 'Turn to me and be saved... for I am God, and there is no other.'

Genesis 1:1-2: 'In the beginning God created.... and the Spirit of God was hovering...'

Judges 14:6: 'The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...'

THIS WEEK



Go, go, go



Happy Pooch

Because this week things were sent in!

Rectory Revelation



Clergy Conference

John 1:1-3: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.'

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells His disciples: 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (the Holy Spirit) from on high.'

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that the warmth and life there as well.

Bible Readings

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

Final Greetings

11 Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. **13** All God's people here send their greetings.

go and make disciples of all nations

Matthew 28:16-20 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

The great commission

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Holy God,
faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



What Connects Murray Walker and Matthew 28?

As the fantastic Murray Walker used to say when the start lights went out, “Go, go, go!”, and that’s what Matthew 28 vs 19 says too. That’s the connection, they both say - **GO**

Last week, during our Zoom service, there was something of a bird ‘Top Trumps’ going on. “Well, my 4 Great Tits beat your 1 song Thrush”, “Yes, well my 6 Bald Eagles beat everything!” Well, maybe not quite that bad, but clearly we’ve all been noticing the birds more during lock down.

If you know the Rectory, then in the winter you will see all the Rooks nest in the trees in the garden. Each spring the noisy residents return and start rebuilding their nests, and soon the leaves start to hide them again. But we know they’re there, as we can hear the cacophony of noise the young make calling out for food.

As they grow the parents will teach them how to survive. By instinct they will be shown how to fly and slowly encourage the young ones to do the same. Then one day, as some saw last week, the parents nudge them out of the nest. They will, by necessity, put into practise the lessons she taught them along with their innate knowledge, and they will fly!

Bit of a scary moment that. What’s out there? Will everything work the way it should? Will I be able to do what I’m supposed to do?

Throughout our lives, God prepares us for the moment when we must do our work for the kingdom of God.

We learn what the Bible says. We hear God’s voice in our lives. We learn to walk his path.

The disciples spent 3 years and 40 days learning from God himself through Jesus. Then Jesus said “Go, and do.”

***18** Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’*

Our Christian walk doesn’t stop when we come to faith. Rather, when we enter into that relationship with Jesus Christ, we are trained and given the gifts necessary to then “Go, go go and do, do, do!”

The time eventually comes when God pushes us out of the bird nest and we have to use all we have to do his work.

Where do we stand today? Has God spoken into our lives and told us to “Go and do,” and have we followed? Or have we sat in our nest in the top of the tree, asking the questions of doubt and fear? During our enforced hiatus from ‘normal’ church life, it’s a great opportunity to seek God’s will for our Spirit filled lives once more.



PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE PARISHES

Masks For DRI

Mary Wright and granddaughter Adele have been busy making masks for Doncaster Royal Infirmary this week, making 36 this week.

They were asked to make some masks for the choir... apparently they don't do that kind of mask!



Escaping Lockdown

In a blatant disregard for social distancing, Benny the cat escaped lockdown and met up with some pals around the catnip.

When quizzed by members of the RSPCA he explained he needed to test his eyesight by walking on the fence following a somewhat dodgy prawn!



Would The Real Rambling Rector Step Forward

Meanwhile in the Rectory Garden the Rambling Rector Rose is also making a night time bid for freedom as it climbs over the wall into the churchyard.

PRAYER

A verse of scripture to encourage. (Matthew 6 v 33). God bless. Sybil



PRAYER FOR A NEW NORMAL

1. I pray that the next time a friend grabs me and pulls me in for a hug, I actually take the time to appreciate the gift of their embrace.
2. I pray that as school resumes and people are dropping kids off, they take the time to thank the staff for the amazing gift that they give to our community.
3. I pray that the next time I'm sitting in a crowded restaurant I take the time to look around at the smiling faces, loud voices and thank God for the gift of community.
4. I pray that the next time I'm standing in church listening to the voices of praise and worship that I take a moment to thank God for the gift of our congregation.
5. I pray that the next time I see a person or situation that needs prayer, I hope I pray as passionately and fervently as I have these past few months.
6. I pray that when I am at the supermarket that I take a moment to thank God that He provides us with the necessities of life and the amazing people who work so hard to keep us supplied.
7. I pray that I never again take for granted the ability to hop in the car and visit a friend, go to the shops or even a meeting.

So, maybe, I don't want things to return to the way they once were. I pray that we take the lessons and challenges of the past few months and create a new normal. My goal is to pray more, love harder, and truly appreciate the daily abundance of blessings that were so easily overlooked just a mere few weeks ago. Amen.

RedWood at the Rectory

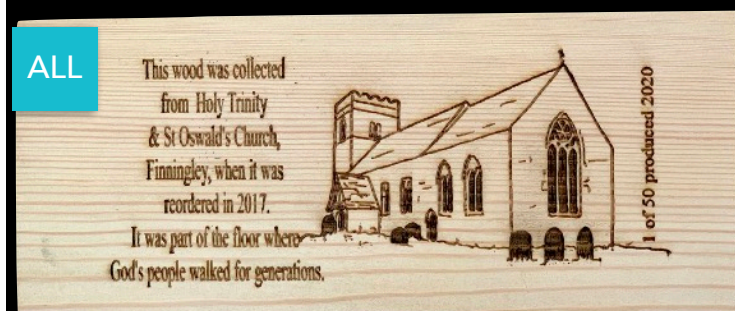
Since last week I've been ordering the magnets, key rings, sandpaper and elbow grease to start production of the new items to raise some money. 28 plaques are ordered already. I'm limiting the plaques to just 75 due to the length of time to produce them, so please order early to avoid disappointment. Happily I found a photo of St Saviours, and made a drawing, and so we now have St Saviour magnets and key rings as well.

Available to order are:

Key rings - £4.50 Fridge Magnets - £4.50

Plaques £10.00

The plaques are made from the pine parquet flooring saved from Finningley Church, so they are part of the history. EVERY plaque has a picture of Finningley Church on one side, and on the other you can choose one of the three designs below. I also need to know if you want it to free stand or hang up.



Auckley magnet is less the keyring bit



Laser at work

Let me know the design number, and if it is to free stand or hang.

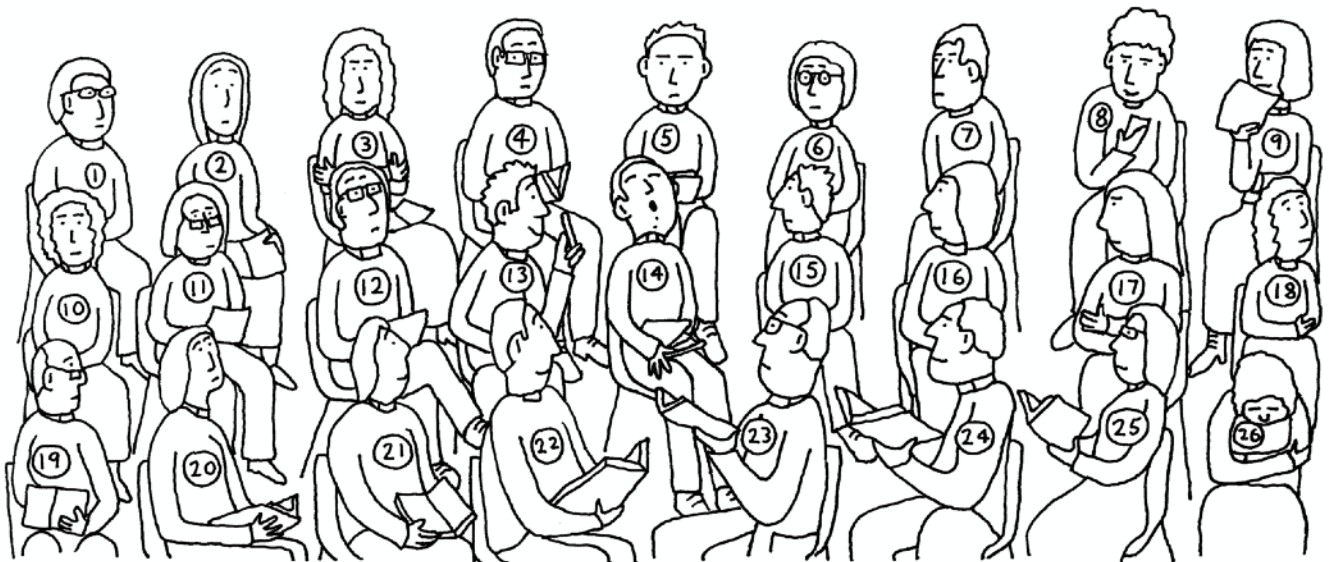
Rectory Revelation

The Clergy Conference

With lockdown and other constraints it struck me that there won't be any clergy conferences happening this year. They happen every so often, and all the clergy poodle off to some conference centre, hopefully with a bar, and enjoy a few days together listening to stirring and inspiring presentations from first class speakers, spending time together in quiet prayer and reflection, and of course sharing best practise with one another - how to deal with screaming babies at baptisms; how to deal with the mother of the bride; and of course, what's the best cure for a hangover!

So, for your delight and delectation I reveal what really goes on behind those conference centre doors, and I'll leave you to decide which bits are real!

THE CLERGY CONFERENCE



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| ① IS IT COFFEE BREAK SOON? | ⑩ WHAT TIME SHALL I PHONE? | ⑲ CAN WE GET BACK TO THE TEXT? |
| ② I COULD HAVE BEEN AN ASTRONAUT | ⑪ SO MUCH TO DO WHEN I RETURN | ⑳ WONDER WHAT'S FOR DINNER |
| ③ IT IS SO COLD IN HERE | ⑫ WHICH PUB SHALL WE GO TO? | ㉑ ISN'T ⑮ LOVELY? |
| ④ HOPE THE CATS ARE OK | ⑬ I'M TWEETING THIS | ㉒ SERMON ILLUSTRATION! |
| ⑤ WISH HE'D SNORE QUIETLY | ⑭ Z Z Z Z | ㉓ OH DEAR - DRIBBLE |
| ⑥ HOW RUDE! | ⑮ HE MIGHT MISS SOMETHING | ㉔ WHEN I'M BISHOP ALL THIS WILL BE MINE |
| ⑦ OH NO - HE'S MY ROOM MATE | ⑯ HOW VERY EMBARRASSING | ㉕ WOULDN'T MIND HIS PARISH |
| ⑧ OOH - FACEBOOK MESSAGE! | ⑰ WHY AM I HERE AGAIN? | ㉖ |
| ⑨ IT IS SO HOT IN HERE | ⑱ LOOK AT THOSE FIELDS | |



Kay Pawley is going to start knitting ladies gloves initially, with all proceeds going to church funds.

Kay would be really grateful if everyone could keep any old wool they have until we can all meet again (or we can do a doorstep collection if anyone has a lot) and she will then take orders and knit the gloves with the unwanted wool – the cost will be £5 a pair.

Husband Mike, looking quite sheepish, said *“they’re not baaaaaad either!”*



The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

When producing material for your magazine or church services, beware the computer spell-checker. We once let our own system check a Christmas carol sheet and, on the night, found ourselves obliged to sing “away in a manger”, mangers apparently being unknown to our machine.

If you use special sheets regularly, it seems a law of nature – as with metal coat hangers – that they all intermingle while no one is watching. Thus, on Easter Day, half the congregation will have been issued with sheets for Harvest, which will only become obvious once the service begins. The first hymn will be entirely lost while sidesmen scuttle about looking for replacements only to find that there won’t be enough of them anyway and then the

second hymn will be lost while others helpfully wander about church donating their sheets to those looking helpless and then trying to find someone to share with.

Never, ever, print on them ‘Do not take home’ as this will only ensure everyone does so. I have sometimes wondered if the instruction ‘Take this sheet home for reference’ would ensure that they stayed neatly arranged in the pews after the service. And if it is a service where babies are likely to be present, be assured that many of the copies will be returned half chewed and coated with bits of whatever the infant had for breakfast. There must be a market for paper treated with a child-repellent flavour for such occasions.

Anyone who thinks we are an unimaginative nation should visit a church after a special service to see how many places members of congregations can invent to hide the booklets: under kneelers, neatly folded and hidden inside hymn books, among flower arrangements and behind heating pipes so that no one can quite reach them. They then lurk there reproachfully for the next ten years until mice solve the problem.

No, stick to large, hard bound books. They are resistant to teeth and are too substantial to be hidden in pockets. Their only drawback is that they tend to fall victim to the pull of gravity at the quietest moments.

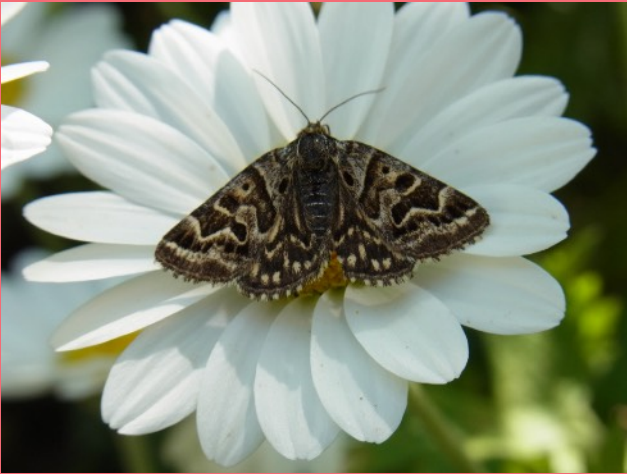
Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Rain and Wee Beasties

I don't know about you but today's rain (Wednesday) was most welcome in our dry and parched garden. I've been trying to avoid disturbing the soil and drying it out any more than necessary but have been deadheading and removing those plants, such as Forget-me-nots, that have been going to seed. I also started to remove some of my Honesty once the flowers had finished but checking first for caterpillars as it is one of the food plants of the pretty Orange Tip butterfly. We did find some Large White caterpillars, which we left for the baby Blue Tits. One of the best things about working closely with the plants is the opportunity it gives to see some of the insects that live in the garden and find out which plants they are using.

The hardy geraniums are enjoyed by bees of all kinds: bumblebees, honeybees and the smaller solitary bees, their open flowers, both large and small are easy for them to access the nectar. Not just bees but butterflies too will feed on their flowers. The photographs show a worker bumblebee and a Brown Argus butterfly feeding on 2 different geraniums. The daisy flowers that are appearing now in the garden are popular with insects of all kinds, including hoverflies that along with bees and butterflies are some of our most important pollinator species. I was delighted to discover an unusual day flying moth on one of our Anthemis flowers recently. It is called the Mother Shipton moth. Can you see the image of the old lady with her crooked nose in the moth's wings? Foxgloves are flowering now too, their tubular flowers are popular with bumblebees and working near to them there is a constant buzz coming from the flowers as the bees enter, take their fill of nectar and exit before moving on up the plant to the next flower. Valerian is another plant with tubular flowers, although these are much narrower tubes, which provide a good source of nectar for insects with long tongues, such as some bees, butterflies and moths. I photographed a Brimstone butterfly on Red Valerian but the most exotic visitor I've ever seen feeding on these plants is the wonderful Hummingbird Hawk-moth, which you will have to "Google" because its wings move so fast as it keeps its head and body still to feed that all my photographic attempts have been a blur. Tricia.

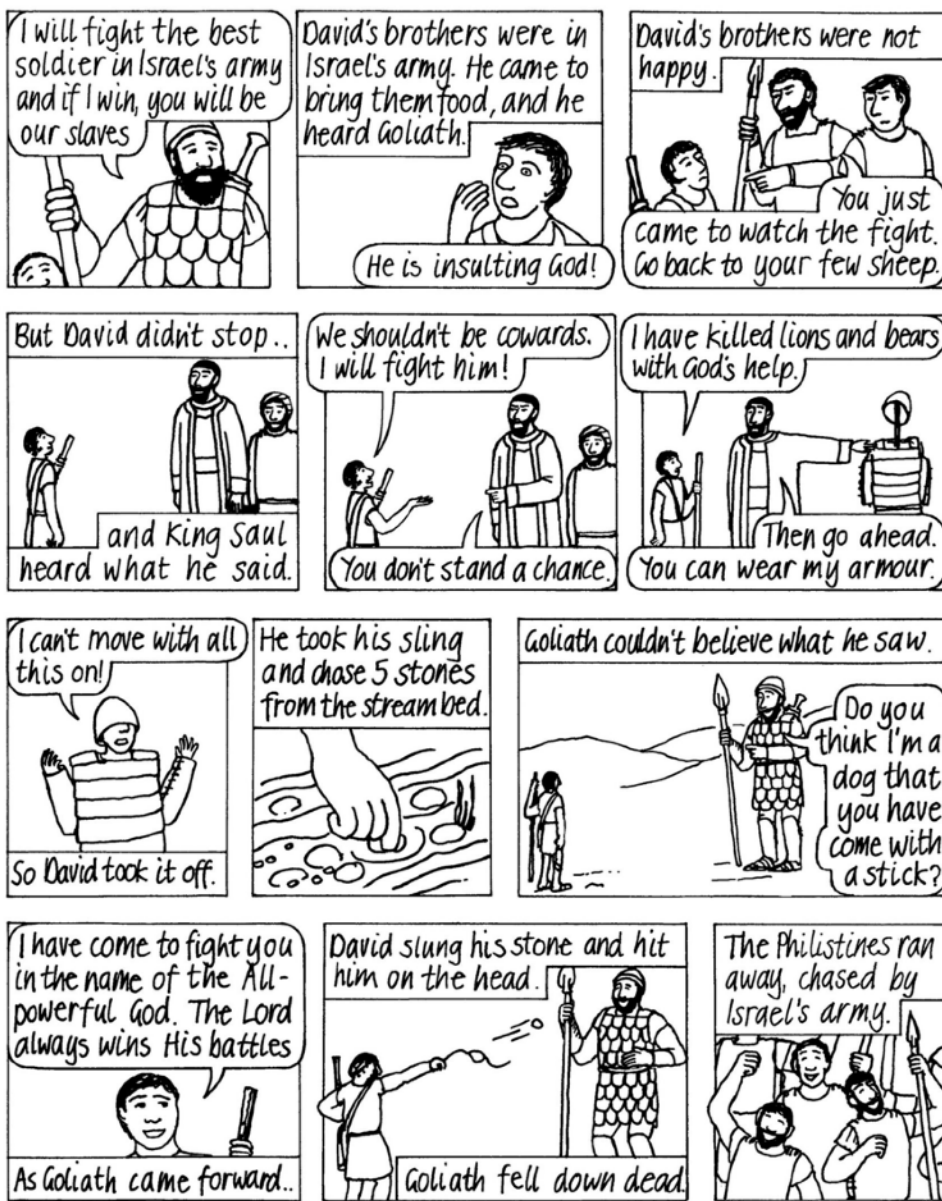


Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..



New version of Apostles' Creed

When our church began live streaming its services, our minister was at first a bit nervous. Still, he kept his cool, and you would never have known he was struggling until he reached the Apostles' Creed. Then he firmly announced that Jesus was..."confused by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary..."

New style of prayer

Our minister is still getting used to live streaming our church services. Last Sunday he invited us to join him digitally in prayer by saying firmly: "Let's bow our eyes and close our heads."

Crazy?

Our minister wanted the title of his next sermon to be posted ahead of time on the church website. He rang our church warden and said that the title was to be: 'Are Ministers Crazy?'

Not hearing this as a question, the church warden dutifully posted: 'Our Minister's Crazy.'

Actual complaints received by a resort chain (before lockdown!)

On my holiday to India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food.

We booked an excursion to a water park, but no one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price.

The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room.

No one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared.

C of E has been ‘astonishingly present’

- says new Archbishop

During the coronavirus crisis, the Church of England has been accused of “vacating the public square or of being absent.”

So wrote Bishop Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York Designate, in a recent article for one of the national newspapers. But he goes on: “I simply do not recognise (this). The Church of England has been astonishingly present, albeit in many new and remarkable ways.”

The Bishop then gave many examples of various local churches who have reacted with positive action during the crisis. Some have started food banks, helped refugees and asylum seekers, set up telephone prayer services, started zoom Bible groups, or organised children and youth events online.

“These stories are being replicated up and down the country,” he continued. “Most astonishing of all, plenty of churches report very large numbers of people joining their streamed services.

“Of course, we long for our church buildings to reopen. But when they do, it won’t be business as usual – partly because we are discovering new ways of serving our communities.

“When we do return to the sacred, beautiful space of our church buildings, with all their vital and much-missed resonances of continuity, I believe the Church of England will emerge from this stronger than it has been for a long while.

Do You Need a New Pain Killer?

Do you ever take pain killers? If so, do you take one for your shoulder, and another one for you knee? Of course not. Once the painkiller enters your bloodstream, it goes everywhere, soothing and damping down the pain, and hitting all the right spots.



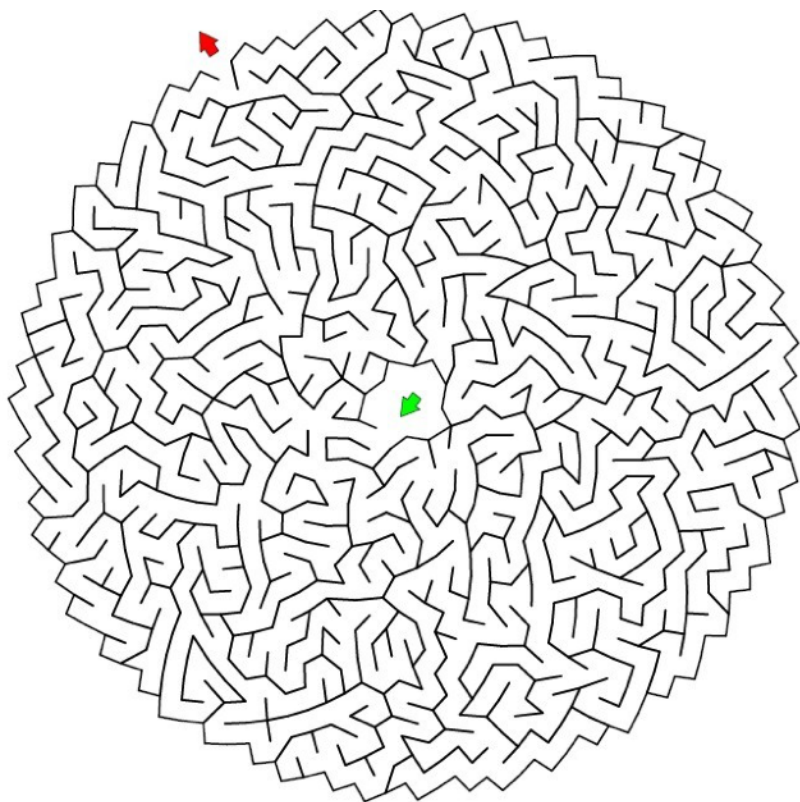
God works a bit like that on the pain in our lives. He has a prescription for ALL the problem areas of our lives. Most of us carry emotional scars, or a burden, or some heartache, around with us. It may be the trauma of loss, or it may be anxiety for our family. It may be uncertainty over our jobs, and our futures.

Whatever it is, God offers us a prescription to help the pain. The psalmist writes: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1) Jesus added: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

This kind of help is real and immediate and there for the asking. We don’t have to put up with our dis-ease and struggle alone. God, our heavenly Father, is only a prayer away. Not just twice a day, after meals, but whenever we need him.

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Live Zoom 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>

Meeting ID: 596 313 8891

Password: FABParish

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