

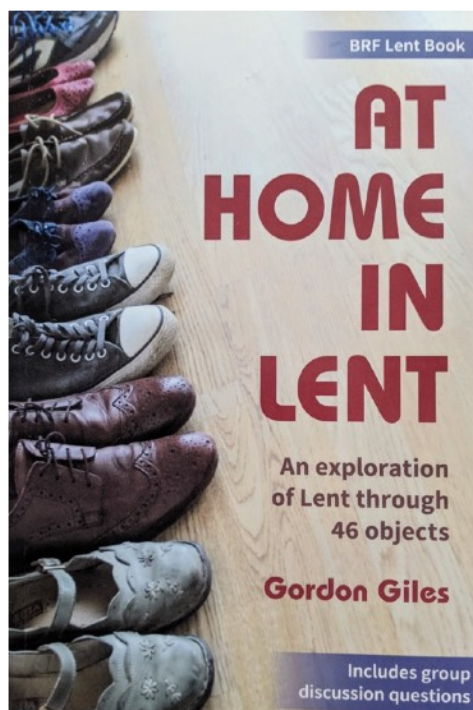
The Rambling Rector

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



BAPTISM, TEMPTATION, & THE MISSION OF GOD

Mark 1:9-15



This Years Lent Course

Each week during Lent we'll also be hosting a Lent course, and Carol tells us a little more below.

This is the book we will be using for our lent course this year. 'At Home in Lent' encourages us to discover how God is already in our homes and where to seek him in the things that surround us everyday. Through the weeks we will think about what doors, mirrors, vacuum cleaners, radios and curtains have to tell us about our faith journey in the light of the Easter story.

The course will take place via zoom at 7pm on Tuesday evenings from February 23rd to March 23rd.

We would love you to join us as we explore together. Please let Neil know that you are interested so that he can send you the zoom meeting link nredeyoff@sky.com

Hannah can provide support if you have not used zoom before.

For the first week please try and have a mirror with you. Carol.

THIS WEEK



Hobbies

Lock Down Creation



Exposé

A Mum To Be



St Valentine

What's It Really About?



Thursday 5.00pm
please

Bible Readings

1 Peter 3:18-22

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. **19** After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits - **20** to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, **21** and this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **22** who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand - with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Mark 1:9-15

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. **10** Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. **11** And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'
12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, **13** and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.
14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. **15** 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!'

A Reflection by Neil

COVID Road Map

This week the government, via Boris, will present its roadmap to end the current COVID restrictions. We must remember that until they are announced, and until the law actually changes, they don't actually begin to take effect.

However. The media have been giving us a confident 'roadmap' for the past two weeks. They claim to have leaks from high up government sources, they state things as fact, they report what will happen.

I find it so frustrating...it's not official yet!! Stop it!!

What they've actually been doing is offering us *their* opinion on the roadmap, *their view* of things that could become reality, *their ideas* of what might happen. As for that high up government source...I suspect it could be the Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office - otherwise known as Larry the Cat!!

Until it is officially announced, it doesn't come into effect - simple as that.

WEEKLY PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Royalty

In a similar way, we probably think Prince Charles will be the next King. However, it could be William! Until the coronation, marking the beginning of their reign, we just don't know.

But What's This Got To Do With The Reading?

Often with today's gospel we talk about the baptism and what happened - sky ripped open, dove descending, God speaking - all excellent and important events.

However, we don't often ask - Why did Jesus have to be baptised?

Jesus

- Jesus was born king.
- He was always the Christ, even before the creation of the World.
- He was sent as the Messiah, born of Mary, and worshipped from the beginning of His earthly life by those few who recognised Him from the beginning.

Yet, he also needed to go through a ceremony of anointing, a moment when God blessed Him with the power and authority to do the work He was sent to do.

***9** At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. **10** Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. **11** And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' **12** At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, **13** and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.*

We Can Talk and Talk

We can talk about COVID restrictions until we are blue in the face, and we can try and guess from all the media input what might be said. But until Boris speaks, nothing has begun.

Jesus' Ministry

Jesus was indeed the Messiah King from before time began, but his ministry did not begin until that moment in the River Jordan with John the Baptist.

It was then he was anointed and given the power and authority of his position in God's kingdom. From that time until today the world was changed by his love and mercy.

So, when we ask the question - Why Jesus needed to be baptised since He was perfect and without sin?

Because - this was His moment of inauguration, the moment God revealed his roadmap to the world, a ceremony defining the moment when he accepted the role he had been ordained to do. It was also the time when the world witnessed the legitimatising of his ministry to the world.

God's Son

This was indeed God's son with whom he was well pleased.

He was anointed with the Holy Spirit.

This was the start of his work on earth.

He set out on the road to do the very best for humanity - to save us from sin.



During last weeks Bible Study Group we discussed what resources might help us to spend more time with God over Lent. So, below we have listed some resources, and we will continue to update them.

If you would like any further information about any of them, then please do get in touch.

Social Media

- Sheffield Diocesan Prayer Community, Facebook, Monday-Friday 7:30-8.00am, Saturday 8.00-8:30am
- Lou Fellingham, Come and Sing, Facebook and YouTube, Wednesday 8:30-9.00am
- Lou Fellingham, Coffee Morning, Facebook and YouTube, Saturday 9.30-11.00am

Online

- Finningley & Auckley Lent Course. 7.00pm Tuesdays during Lent
- Pete Greig - Looking at Prayer on YouTube

Apps (for phones or tablets/iPads)

- Lectio 365 - daily devotional
- Bible app - verse of the day and themed Bible plans
- Bible in one Year

Books

- The Bible from Scratch by Simon Jenkins
- Soul Fuel, A Daily Devotional by Bear Grylls
- Soul Fuel for Young Explorers by Bear Grylls (children and young peoples version)
- How to Pray by Pete Greig
- Bible in a Year

Radio

- Premier Christian Radio

Worship Music (Contemporary)

Lyric videos available on Youtube

- Hillsong
- Elevation Worship
- Cory Asbury
- Soul Survivor
- Phil Wickham



Easter Cards

Some of the children at St Oswalds Academy will be making Easter Card after half term. They thought they might cheer someone up and so want to send them to people in our community who maybe live alone or haven't been able to get out. They would of course be quarantined before they were sent out.

If you would like to nominate someone, then please let the Parish Office know their name and address.

Also, if anyone is able to help distribute them, that would be a great help, and again, let the Parish Office know.

FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ZOOM

If you're unable to Zoom then we have resources available. If you would like fresh copies of Morning Prayer then please just give Neil a call who will be happy to mail them out.

In addition, the Church of England also has the following free Daily Hope line too..





IN DEPTH

This week, Paul Reeves Churchwarden and 2nd cousin twice removed of Keanu Reeves...not.

What was your least favourite food as a child?

Cheese & onion crisps with ginger beer.. I still done like ginger beer and I don't really eat cheese and onion crisps.

What is the worst job you've ever had?

Unblocking drains.. as for employment with BT (46years) I've always enjoyed my work, even when I worked in sales for a short time and when I was meeting customers when I was on faults.

If you were an animal what would you be?

Jersey cow, all that fresh grass and produce the best cream ever.

Tell us something we don't know about you.

My grandparents were farmers at Westwoodside and I would spent all the summer holidays from 6 to 10 years old with them.

What's the most exciting thing you've done?

Our visit to Hong Kong in October 1991 and landing at Kytak airport flying in through the sky scrapers and seeing people hanging washing out and watching their TV's.

If you performed in a circus, what act would you be?

Clown!

DRI Baby Beanie Hats

Ruby Metcalf writes:

"I got so sick of talking to four walls and the dog that when I saw a request for baby beanie hats for DRI I began knitting some. The pattern is below and I will get them there if any of you can manage a hat or two."

Baby Beanie Hat

Double knitting wool, s6 (5.00m) needles & s8 (4.00m) needles

S8 needles cast on 48 sts and work in k1p1 rib for 1 row

Now use s6 needles and work in stocking stitch until measures 5in (13cms) – whichever measures you use

Crown

1st row k2tog k2 to end of row (36sts)

2nd row purl

3rd row k2tog k2 to end of row (27)

4th row purl

5th row k2tog k2 to end of row (18)

6th row purl

7th row k2to across the row (9)

Cut off wool leaving a long enough end to thread crown and sew up the beanie.

Many thanks



Branton

Someone in Branton clearly enjoys knitting. Jenny Webb saw this the other day!



Nature Poems

It appears Tricia enjoys a little poetry and sent in the following

Robin

If on a frosty morning
the robin redbreast calls
his waistcoat red and burning
like a beggar at your walls

throw breadcrumbs on the grass for him
when the ground is hard and still
for in his breast there is a flame
that winter cannot kill

Iain Crichton Smith

Thaw

Over the land freckled with snow half-thawed
The speculating rooks at their nests cawed
And saw from elm-tops, delicate as flower of grass,
What we below could not see. Winter pass.

Edward Thomas

Feathered Friends

Mike Pawley enjoys photography, here are some shots of garden visitors.



My Aunty Bess

This week we hear from Alan about Mr Higgins, mushrooms and moles (not for vegetarians!)

Mr. G. Higgins. Loved headmaster

Mr. Higgins was our schoolmaster for forty years. He started a club, called the Waltham Friendly Society, who paid out benefits to ill people. Once a year all the members attended a service at the church and then afterwards met down at the club room at the Royal Horseshoes for a meal. My sister Ethel met a woman carrying a joint of meat which seemed as big as me! The Friendly Society continued until the Welfare State took over. Mr Higgins had a disabled son and very late in life they had a daughter Mary.

We used to take Dad his tea in a milk can. Mother would put an egg in the can of tea and it would be cooked when we reached Dad. The milk can was swung around and around, but once the lid came off and I lost the tea. "Was I in trouble!"

We always seemed to get to know when the field was nearly all cut. When the last corner was reached we went to see the rabbits come out. If we were lucky we took one home.

One day, Mrs Mable Mount called to see Dad to ask for something towards having the church spire repaired. Dad said "Tell him to mind his own workshop". We used to go up the garden to see the Zeppelin's go overhead. I

In the cemetery, my favourite epitaph was "Tell me what a wife should be and she was that". My brother Harry would trap moles and nail them on a board to dry, then sell them to John Lee of Grantham.

The scout movement was well alive in the village. My brother Harry progressed to being a robust scout. The scout master was Mr Higgins, who was later made District Commissioner.

On New Year's Eve, our bells were rung muffled before twelve o'clock. After twelve, with the muffles off, you could hear a merry peal to welcome the New Year.

We used to go blackberrying down Grantham road, past Nobbuck Collar, which when pronounced properly was Norbeck Hollow. We also went mushrooming. If Dad found big ones they were made into ketchup.

We went down the bridle path to Croxton Park to open the gates for the hunt and get some pennies. There was supposed to be a ghost in the park which was a huntsman in a sheet. Dad helped to replant the park with young trees.

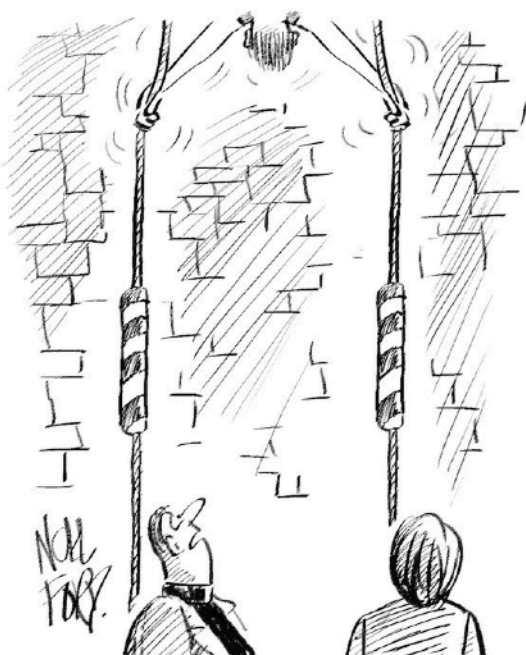
Alan Whitehall



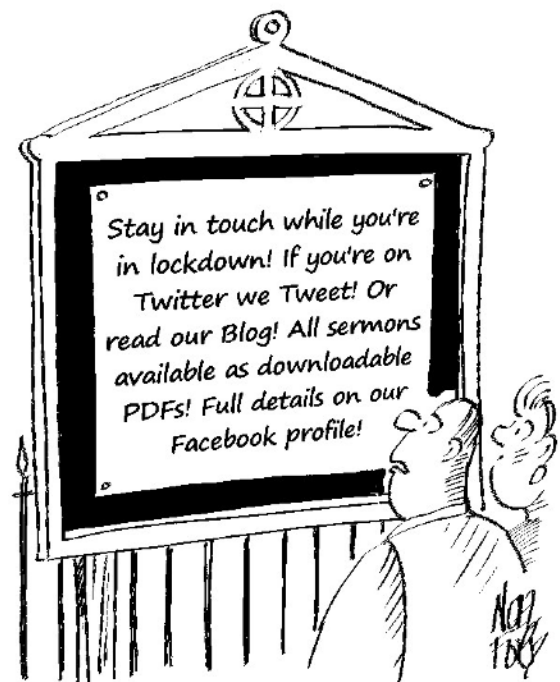
Croxton Park

In The Churchyard

Tricia has been rambling around Finningley Churchyard, and has sent the following pictures. Snowy scenes with signs of new life.



Eric took social distancing while bell ringing very seriously.



"...and we used to grumble about not understanding archaic church language!"



'Zoomed Out?'

'You're still on mute!' If you've used Zoom over the past year, you'll be familiar with this cry! After a day on Zoom, the last thing we often want to do is using it for a chat with friends or a church service on Sunday! Now this reveals a wider problem that we face. We know that staying connected in the pandemic is hard. When we're tired and busy, it's easy to stop connecting with others, which would encourage our faith or wellbeing. This might also include not sending a text, Facebook comment or phoning somebody up.

Remember what Paul says: *'For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.'* (Romans 7:15). It's often easier to avoid connecting with God and others, when this would be good for our sense of value, purpose and identity. Certain patterns of behaviour can make us feel safer, but in reality they prevent us from living our lives fully as God intends.

Paul adds: *'What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!'* (Romans 7:24,25). Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we have the freedom to act differently. Lent is an ideal time to develop new habits, especially when we are tired or anxious. It may involve spending less time on Facebook, turning the TV off to call a friend who we need to catch up with, or getting up a bit earlier to spend time in Bible reading and prayer.

Let's keep reminding ourselves that *'God is bigger than Zoom'* and make sure that we don't get disconnected! Let's be committed to doing the right thing, rather than simply the easier thing.

The hearer of God's Word ought to be like those animals that chew the cud; they ought not only to feed upon it, but to ruminate upon it. – Augustine

Poverty of spirit is the bag into which Christ puts the riches of His grace. – Rowland Hill

Prayerwalk²¹

Our communities have all been being affected by the Covid-19 pandemic: our schools, hospitals, neighbours, churches, friends and families, so when we're out on our daily walk, let's turn the time to prayer.

That's the challenge from HOPE Together, which is encouraging Christians to walk and pray in 2021.

Rachel Jordan-Wolf, HOPE's executive director, says: 'Whatever time, wherever you live, whilst we're able and permitted to walk – let's walk and talk to the one who has the power to act and bring change.'

HOPE is bringing together resources and ideas for prayer walking from many UK prayer ministries. An app is also being developed to track where Christians have walked and prayed throughout the UK. This is part of a worldwide Every Home for Christ initiative called Oikos, which aims to take the Christian message of hope to every home on the planet over the next 20 years.

To find out more visit www.hopetogether.org.uk/prayerwalk21

WISE WORDS

This week the leader for education in Sheffield sent this message to all in education. It perhaps speaks to many more of us too.

“Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.”

Nelson Mandela once said, “Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.” One thing that I have seen occur several times during the last twelve months is the ebb and flow of challenges that have presented themselves. There have been a number of pinch points, where changes have been introduced or infection rates have increased and affected the way in which we work. There has often been a predictable unpredictability, so to speak. So, looking through the lens of Nelson Mandela’s words, there were many times when you have overcome challenges, carried on and been successful. But it’s the times when it has been really challenging, when no obvious solution been around, when spirits are low, that you have really shown your resilience in getting back up again. I’ve seen this many times over and I’ve seen it in all sectors.

Thanks to Nicola for sending it in.

Prayer & Prose

One word can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream;
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald Spring.

One smile can bring a friendship,
One handclasp can lift a soul;
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One cheer can obtain a goal.

One vote can change a Nation,
One sunbeam can lift a room;
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.
One look can change two lives;
One kiss can make love bloom.

One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer;
One hope can raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.

One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what’s true;
One life can make a difference,
One life is me and you....

By Shawnee Kellie

Lord God, you are always with me.
You are with me in the day and in the night.
You are with me when I’m happy and when I’m sad.
You are with me when I’m healthy and when I am ill.
You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.
Today I am feeling (name how you are feeling) because (reasons you are feeling this way).
Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today.
Amen.

February opened with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between couples: Valentine cards and romance abound. ‘Love’ as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone!

naming
Christ
Candlemas
Simeon
Anna
temple
love
Valentine
romance
Matthias
Fairtrade
Fortnight
coffee
bananas
chocolate
justice
poverty
nest box
marriage
wedding
Holocaust
leprosy



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 hannah@centenaryproject.org.uk or 07875 500555.

TO SIGN IN, PLEASE USE THE DETAILS BELOW

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)

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