

The Rambling Rector

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

TRAVEL WRITING

I've always enjoyed reading, or watching documentaries, about people travelling or setting up home in another country around the world and the other day I came across this story of two British men on a motorcycle holiday in Thailand.

It was a trip they had planned for months and here they were, living the dream. Riding through the rural countryside was the perfect way to see the breath-taking scenery and absorb the cultural delights that were on offer. Their senses were overwhelmed with the sounds, colour and sheer beauty of the place. But after riding for hours in the increasingly hot sun they began to feel very hungry and in need of a break.



As they rode a little further, the men were suddenly hit by the familiar tantalising smells of traditional Thai food and their stomachs rumbled in appreciation. All they had to do now was follow the aroma, and this led them off road to the most beautiful landscaped garden with an open air kitchen.

The men were elated to find this little oasis and quickly parked up their bikes in anticipation to eat some authentic Thai food.

On entering the small but well maintained kitchen/dining area they could see only one man sitting at the bar with a plate of food and a cold beer. So the two men headed for the empty table nearby and waited patiently to be served.

Not long after a woman appeared, she seemed surprised to see them but smiled politely and walked over to the table. It was soon apparent that she didn't speak a word of English. So the two chaps did their best to communicate by using hand gestures and pointing at the man at the bar to say,

"We'll have what he's having".

Anyway, the woman seemed to understand and disappeared into the kitchen, returning with two generous plates of food. The two men thanked her graciously for what they knew was going to taste as amazing as it looked. The only thing that was missing was a nice cold glass of Chang (Thai beer) which would complement the meal beautifully. So, when the woman reappeared from the kitchen area they got her attention and again made gestures with their hands, this time to illustrate their desire for an ice cold drink. The woman seemed a little perplexed, but remained polite with a slightly less noticeable smile.

THIS WEEK



Hobbies
Furry Cakes



Exposé
Double Trouble!



Lent
Love Yourself



Thursday 5.00pm
please

As the men got stuck into the best Thai food they had ever eaten, they realised that the woman had been gone for some time. Then a young man suddenly appeared from the kitchen and tentatively approached the two men.

"Hello?" said the young man greeting them both.

The two men were glad to see him especially as he appeared to speak English, perhaps they could now have that cold beer after all.

"Is there a problem?" he asked them.

"No problem at all mate, we were just hoping for some beer to go with the delicious food" the two men responded.

The young man looked somewhat confused. "You want beer!?" he asked scratching his head.

"Sure" the two men replied.

"I'm so sorry, this is not a restaurant, this my neighbours house!"

Continued with reflection...

Bible Readings

Romans 8:31-end

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? **33** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. **34** Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36** As it is written:

'For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.'

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[k] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

WEEKLY PRAYER

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Mark 8:31-end

31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. **32** He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. 'Get behind me, Satan!' he said. 'You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.'

The way of the cross

34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **35** For whoever wants to save their life[b] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. **36** What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? **37** Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? **38** If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.'

A Reflection by Neil

Just prior to today's passage Peter had recognised Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, and now he taught the twelve that he must suffer, die and rise again.

So, the first part of today's reading has the initial example in Mark's Gospel of Jesus predicting his death, or his passion as it's sometimes called, and in the second part Jesus clears up some misperceptions, and it's so strongly worded that it couldn't have been forgotten by anyone who had heard it. In other words, he defines "Messiah" for them.

Peter's Not Happy

Peter's not happy though, and he takes Jesus to one side.

It's a bit like Peter saying with great love, "*Lord, don't even go there!*"

But Jesus rebukes Peter, and it's a harsh correction.

Why?

Why? Because, Peter was thinking with a human mind, not with God's mind.

Peter has understood Jesus' identity and God's realm in human terms, not in godly ones.

Such misconception is the very stuff of Satan. It's a dangerous business to try and make God's will in the world fit with our worldly desires.

Think back to our motorcyclists. They were following their hunger and desires, and completely misunderstanding the situation.

They didn't have the full picture, neither did Peter, neither do we!

We Think We Understand

Here Mark is asking us to see that even when we think we have grasped something of Jesus in one circumstance, we then fail to see in another.

Our inability to see the bigger picture isn't sorted out in one step, or even in two or three.

- Like the disciples, we learn from being corrected, even rebuked.
- But also like them, we often fail to apply the lesson we learned - because a full understanding of its meaning is beyond us.

It is no surprise that the struggle of the disciples to make a good stab at understanding who Jesus will be is the thread that makes Mark's fast paced gospel the edgy narrative it is.

It's also a thread in our own lives.

Jesus teaches

Following Peter's rebuke Jesus calls a crowd together and begins to teach, and it's a hard lesson.

As Jesus' followers we need to lose our lives, because doing so means we lose the way **we** think about the world. Then, hopefully, we will lose the blindness of the human world, and begin to see the world, the bigger picture, through God's eyes.

We're Human

We're human, and therefore fallible and sinful. We're also quite selfish, and find it easy to see the world through 'I' and 'me', rather than 'God'.

It's the inherent human condition. Like the two men riding their motorcycles - they were hungry, smelt food, and sat down. They saw what they wanted to see, and so they misunderstood and failed to see the bigger picture. They got it wrong.

Peter

Peter, rightly identified Jesus as the Messiah, however, his understanding was wrong, and he even rebuked Jesus when he discovered the Messiah would have to die.

Peter had got it wrong, he saw what he wanted to see, and he misunderstood, and failed to see God's big picture.

Us

The Church, you and me, we often want things to go the way we want.

We can get it wrong, we see what we want to see, we misunderstand, and fail to see God's big picture.

So this Lent, ask God to give you open eyes to see his bigger kingdom picture, open ears to hear his voice, and an open heart to receive.

A 'Treemendous' Idea From Tricia

My favourite tree

Having just listened to Gardener's Question Time where the panel was asked what was their favourite tree, it made me wonder what my favourite tree would be.

I decided that it would probably be an Amelanchier. We have one in our garden which is a small multi-stemmed tree about 35 years old which I brought as a cutting from one that was growing as a shrub at the front of our first house in Cantley. Although not native, as it originally came from North America, it has much to offer our wildlife as well as ourselves.

From the end of February or beginning of March I begin to notice its buds which gradually grow longer until it tempts me with the promise of blossom about to break for what seems like weeks. When it does flower it is covered in delicate, white 5-petalled starry flowers for a few fleeting weeks of beauty. The time it is in blossom depends on the severity of our March winds and April showers and how quickly bees and other insects move in to feed on its nectar. At the same time its neat leaves begin to open with beautiful bronze tints, which as the season progresses turn green and offer dappled shade to the border below. The Amelanchier is sometimes known as June Berry as the fruits soon begin to form after the flowers have been pollinated. I find that Blackbirds especially, both adults and young ones, love the berries which they start to feast on in July while they are still red. By August they will have turned black and the birds soon polish off any that are left. In a good autumn with some chilly nights the leaves once again become the main event turning beautiful shades of red and crimson before falling and creating a richly coloured carpet of leaves on my lawn.

What is your favourite tree?



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, Helen Meehan, Churchwarden at St Saviours, and her son Liam..

What was your least favourite food as a child?

Baked beans and mushy peas. Still can't eat either.

What is the worst job you've ever had?

Cleaning toilets

If you were an animal what would you be?

Red pandas.

Tell us something we don't know about you.

I've been an actress, a fully qualified nurse, and a barmaid.

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

Abseiling

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

I think I'd just be selling tickets.



IN DEPTH 2

Helen tells us this about son Liam...

What was your least favourite food as a child?

Caviar.

What is the worst job you've ever had?

Deep sea diving.

If you were an animal what would you be?

A dragon!

Tell us something we don't know about you.

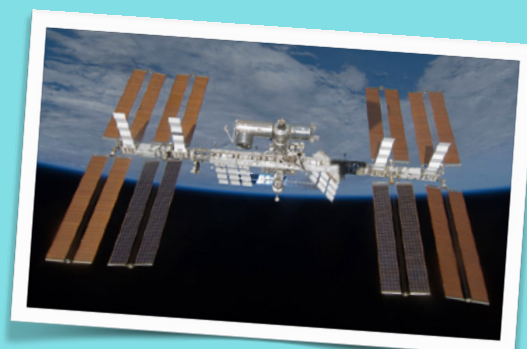
I have an amazing sense of humour and I am very mischievous.

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

Spent time on the international space station.

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

Trapeze artist.





Neil has been busy getting ready for being able to meet outside in gardens. One chair almost complete, one more and a table to go!



Ann Acton has been busy knitting. If you have a strong Lancashire accent, then 'fairy cakes' can often sound like 'furry cakes'. But now they actually are!

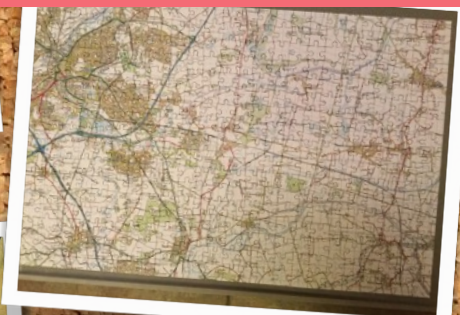


FREE to Good Home!

Barbara Heaton used to enjoy cross-stitch, and has the books in the picture to give away to a good home. If you would like them, please contact Barbara directly or through the Parish Office.



Tricia, whilst not outdoors dealing with flora and fauna, enjoys a good jigsaw



FREE
to a good home





Here are some resources that might help us to spend more time with God over Lent. If you have any that you would like to share please let us know and we will update the list.

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

ACROSS: 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True. 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed. 16, Participation. 17, War. 19, Hillside. 24, Baldhead. 25, Bede. 26, Census. 27, Arisen.
DOWN: 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract. 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude. 10, Irish. 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's. 13, Blindness. 14, Deny. 15, Spew. 18, Awake. 20, Ideas. 21, Lydia. 22, Odes. 23, Lean.

Lent Course Week 1

For our lent course we are using the book 'At Home in Lent' by Gordon Giles, which uses household objects to help us in our faith journey. Is your home your spiritual castle? The word lent derives from the old English word for spring, and lent can be a good time for spiritual spring cleaning too. A time to think about the furnishing and fittings of our faith, what needs polishing sprucing up, repairing or even replacing?

For the first week we looked at the front door and mirrors.

'Listen! I am standing at the door knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself have conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches'

Revelation 3:20-22.

Our front door has 2 purposes, to keep people out, and also to let people in. Today most of us not only keep our doors closed but also locked, so opening them is a 2 stage process. To be able to open it the door needs to have been maintained, with working hinges and lock, and no obstructions. It's the same for our spiritual doors, generally we don't pay attention until things break, but maintenance is vital, and lent can be thought of as a period of spiritual maintenance, making sure we are truly at home for Jesus, that the door of our hearts are open and that the rest of our spiritual home is in good working order. Jesus knocks but we have to open the door to let Him in.

Are you at home to Jesus -would you let Him across your threshold into your home? Would you be proud or ashamed of your home-the things you value, the possessions you have acquired, the stuff you have?

At time Paul wrote these words mirrors were very crude, backed with lead they gave a very dim image, mirrors were in their infancy and like children did not reflect well. Paul looked ahead to a time when things would be seen face to face and the image would be clear.

- How do you feel about looking at yourself in a mirror?
- What do you see? Do you recognise yourself?
- What do others see?
- Who or what does God see? What do you think God sees that we don't?

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end: as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For now we only know in part, and we prophecy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child; I thought like a child: when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:8-13.

Lent is traditionally a time of self-denial and repentance, of turning to God. Before we can do that we need to recognise who we truly are, to look in the spiritual mirror, taking a good look at ourselves, but also trying to look with the eyes of our Lord, to wonder what and who He sees. God sees us with clarity, He knows we make mistakes,

but he looks on us with compassion, honesty and mercy. The next time you look at yourself in a mirror, remember you are made in God's image.

This prayer is taken from the book.

Father God, I am your child. Help me to recognise myself in the mirror of your mercy, and to see my face as the imperfect reflection of yours until the day when I shall truly see you face to face Amen.

Next week we will be looking at shoes, showers and baths. I wonder how many pairs of shoes you have-have a look-you don't need to let us know!

The Lent Course will continue into Holy Week. We would love you to join with us.

Carol.

The Sheep and the Goats

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. **32** All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Matthew 25:31-33



Sent in by Jenny Webb. I'm wondering if the little guys are miniature friesian cows?

Things we would not have known without Sunday School

With your eyes closed for prayer, anything can happen in a room full of 4 and 5 years olds.

Orange juice and action songs do not mix.

When dropped, offering money always rolls to the other side of the room.

Children's prayer requests reveal a lot about their parents.

Bishop

A small child told their mother, "We went to a confirmation service at the cathedral and I saw the bishop. Now I know what a crook looks like!"

St Joseph, patron saint of fathers and holy death

Why should St Joseph's day be on the 19th March? Surely, he belongs to Advent and Christmas, at Mary's side in millions of nativity scenes around the world.

In any case, as the foster-father of Christ and husband of Mary, Joseph played a major part in the story of the coming of Jesus Christ. All that we know about him for sure is in the gospels. Read especially Matthew 1 – 2. He was of Davidic descent, but his trade as a carpenter shows that he was not at all wealthy.

Joseph's gentleness and decency towards Mary, and his willingness to do God's will when it was revealed to him, portray him as a kind and godly person. Joseph is the patron saint of fathers of families, and he makes an excellent example. He comes across as a protecting, loyal, thoughtful, self-controlled person, full of integrity, and willing to work hard. Who wouldn't want a father like that?

Joseph is also the patron saint of all who desire a holy death. Thus, countless churches, hospitals and religious congregations are dedicated to Joseph.

Prayer & Prose

Letter to Joseph of Nazareth
(Mt 1:16, 18 –end, 13:55; Lk 1:48)

Joseph,
Son of Jacob,
Descendant of Abraham,
Carpenter of Nazareth,
Who could have imagined
What you would be called to do?

Loving Mary,
Pledged to the one
Whom all generations would call blessed,

Joseph,
You responded to angelic advice
And continued to love,
Even when you woke up to shocking reality.

Joseph,
You went forward in obedience and faith,
Protecting and providing for
Your Mary and her Son,
Passing on your working skills.

Joseph,
Often overlooked,
Thank you
For teaching Jesus
How to do great things with wood.

Dear Father God,

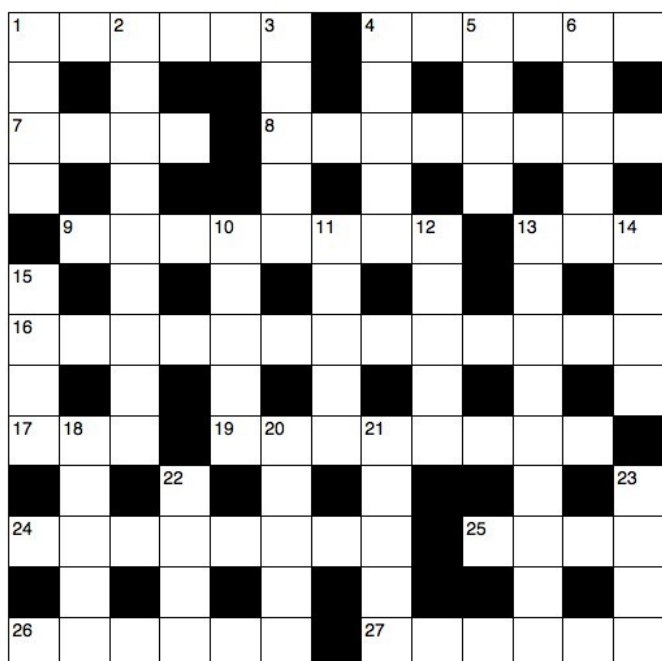
In this month, when we especially think about mothers and the important women in our lives, we thank you for the families and friends you have given us. You know how hard it has been to have been separated over these past months, how much we have missed and longed for their hugs, their physical presence and fellowship.

As we hold on to the hope of overcoming the pandemic, help us to be strengthened by the power of the love we receive – and to strengthen others by the love we give.

May we know that, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, we and our loved ones are held safe and connected by your unfailing love for us, revealed in Jesus – who is alive – and from whom nothing, no pandemic, no man-made turmoil, absolutely nothing and no-one can separate us, when we put our trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, that we belong to your family. Thank you for the love and security we have in you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1) (8)
 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5) (8)
 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this (Luke 8:16) (3)
 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
 25 The Venerable —, eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
 3 Gospel leaflet (5)

- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
 6 To put forth (5)
 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)
 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)
 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
 18 'When I —, I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
 22 Does (anag.) (4)
 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)

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

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