

The Rambling Rector

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

Mothering Sunday

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigours of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to one of the Epistle readings for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

But, on Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks (which sadly this year isn't possible). Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world, although the UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked, and the original intent has been lost.



THIS WEEK



Church

Was never closed,
just the building



Pushing

The Envelope



Lent Course

A Shocking Week



Thursday 5.00pm
please

Bible Readings

Colossians 3:12-17

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **16** Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. **17** And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2:33-35

33 The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, **35** so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

A Reflection by Neil

The Last Year

The last twelve months have demonstrated just what it's like to live in a world without certain things - toilet roll, hugs, Christmas, a pint, flour, a meal out, a football match, mothering Sunday services with daffodils, singing together... When this happens, and our happiness, and our comfort, or the joy of meeting family and friends, are affected it can be hard to maintain focus, balance and positivity..

Music

I was watching a quiz recently which had some musical questions in it, and it reminded me of a musical term that perhaps describe the last 12 months:- 'dissonance'.

Dissonance in music is a clashing or unresolved musical interval or chord, and is a harsh, unpleasant combination of sounds - a discord. It's a combination of tones considered to suggest unrelieved tension that require resolution, and that perhaps describes life today - Dissonance, disharmony and disruption that is hard to live with.

dissonance
noun [U]
UK /'dɪs.ən.əns/
MUSIC specialised
a combination of sounds
or musical notes that are
not pleasant when heard
together:

Mary, Patrick, Joseph and Cuthbert

Around this time of year in the church calendar we celebrate Mothering Sunday, and indeed Jesus mother Mary features in our short gospel reading today. On Wednesday this week it is St Patrick's Day, followed on Friday by Mary's husband Joseph, and on Saturday we're encouraged to think about St Cuthbert of Northumberland. Each of these people demonstrated incredible faith in a God who walked with them through the dissonance and unpredictabilities of life.

Luke

In our gospel reading today Luke goes to the heart of the matter. After the presentation of Christ in the temple, we hear of Mary and Joseph's encounter with Simeon and Anna. First, Simeon proclaims that on seeing the Christ child he has witnessed God's salvation and we read that : *'the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.'*

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, *'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'*

Luke, so early on in his gospel, appears to rain on their parade. He casts a shadow over previous hopes, over inspired songs and over prophecy. Simeon speaks so wonderfully of the child's future that Mary and Joseph are amazed; and to Mary he speaks poetically of the price both she and her son must pay.

Not All Good News

I'm not sure how Mary will have taken that, celebrating the joy of her son's birth, but then to be told that it won't all be good news.

I guess, in a way, this is what we are having to grapple with right now.

- We know the joy of the Christian faith.
- We know the passion with which we can experience God through communal worship.
- We know the enjoyment we get from spending time with our family and friends.
- We know the happiness of baptisms and weddings.

Yet, we've lived with restrictions, separations, bad news, and a lot of dissonance. There is hope on the horizon, but we're not quite there yet.

Mothering Sunday

Today is Mothering Sunday and there'll be lots of emotions:

- Some may experience the joy of a household family celebration, with cards and chocolates, some daffs from the neighbours garden, and breakfast in bed (providing they're in the same household or bubble).
- Whilst some will be apart from their mothers longing desperately to be with them.
- Some will have been apart from mothers for a long time and bring to mind happy memories.
- However, some will experience anger as they only have bad memories of their mum.
- Whilst others will be saddened and mourning the loss of a mum, or a mum grieving the loss of a child.
- And for some will find today hard because they don't have children.

God Cares

In all of this, the good, the bad, and the ugly, we need to hold onto the fact that God cares, God is and God can. We can live our lives in the hope that he has set before us, enjoying his provision around us and trusting his promises because out of the dissonance, God can bring music.

Jazz musicians work with dissonance all the time. They blend the discordant notes, with a rhythmic pace, capturing the wildness and the disruptive with a clarity of sound. Then, alongside the interpretations of other musicians, they produce something hopeful, joyful and real.

Mary, Joseph, Patrick and Cuthbert lived their lives, which were far from easy, in the sure and certain hope of Jesus Christ, blessing others as they went.

As we give thanks today for all those who have loved us and who we love, let us do the same. In this far from perfect world let us remember that together God can create music out of discord, and in return we can make a joyful noise unto the Lord.



Prayer

& Prose

Prayer for Families

Dear Father God,

In this month, when we especially think about mothers, 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

Written in March

The cock is crowing,
The stream is flowing,
The small birds twitter,
The lake doth glitter,
The green field sleeps in the sun...
There's joy in the mountains,
There's life in the fountains,
Small clouds are sailing,
Blue sky prevailing,
The rain is over and gone.

From a poem by William Wordsworth

WEEKLY PRAYER (Sunday Collect)

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and
hold us all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Pushing The Envelope

Thank you to everyone who has been putting money in their weekly envelopes despite the lockdown. If you have been saving these at home it would really help our cashflow if you could let us know. We would then be happy to arrange collection at a convenient time.

Also, could we ask that you let David Liddle know if you make any donations to the church. This is to make sure we have the correct paperwork in place to claim Gift Aid (if it's applicable). Just by chance today someone asked David about their last donation which they paid directly into the bank account. He wasn't aware they had done this, so we could possibly have missed out on FREE money! We know it's a pain, however it's money for nothing and to keep the tax man happy we have to be precise about paperwork for HMRC. Many thanks to all of you who give so generously.





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

SAFE REOPENING

Update

A question both St Saviour's and St Oswald's PCC members have been considering is.

“When can we safely reopen our church buildings for public worship?”

At the forefront of our thinking was ensuring the safety and wellbeing of everyone. After prayerful and considered discussion, reference to Bishop Pete's Coronavirus ad clerum of the 1st of March, the Government's own Road Map out of lockdown, and of course our ability to be able to follow the current legislation/guidance and ensure COVID secure buildings, we reached a conclusion:

Both churches will reopen for public worship on Sunday 18th April.

This follows the proposed introduction of Step 2 of the Government's Road Map on the 12th April when there are changes to the legislation and non-essential businesses may open again. **However**, should Step 2 be delayed, then reopening our buildings will be delayed accordingly.

We will revert to a physical and online zoom service at Finningley at 10.00am, and a physical service only at Auckley at 11.00am. Like before, booking a seat in advance will be needed as we believe all the previous restrictions for public worship will be put in place again - social distancing, face masks and as yet, sadly no singing - but we will clarify that once all the details are known

However, the PCC need to place a caveat on this:

We MUST follow all the guidance and legislation that is put in place. If we cannot fulfil this obligation, then we will have to close the buildings once more.

Most of us will have had one or even two jabs by then, and this can give a real sense of security. But we must remain vigilant and follow all the rules laid down, we don't want to fall just as the finishing line comes into view.

As steps 3 and 4 of the Government's plan get closer we are told to expect more details and what may be permissible in those steps. We will of course keep everyone updated.

We know that missing Easter again is disappointing, however, the risks of opening and not being able to guarantee a COVID secure environment are just too great.

We all look forward with hope to a point later this year when we can all meet together to worship our Lord and Saviour in one place, sing our hearts out in praise, and of course enjoy some fellowship and a cuppa.

God bless and stay safe. Finningley & Auckley PCC's



The other week Mike and Kay Pawley sent me some pictures and words about hobbies. I copied them in, formatted the page, came up with a witty title...then I don't know what happened - it vanished, and I didn't notice. Sorry! So here they are.

Using Flour and Flower Watching

Kay writes: *"I've always been a bit of a knitter, doing things like clothes for the grandchildren and Mike. Since Covid hit us I've been doing a lot more, not just for church funds, and have just started my first pair of socks with wool I was bought for Christmas."*

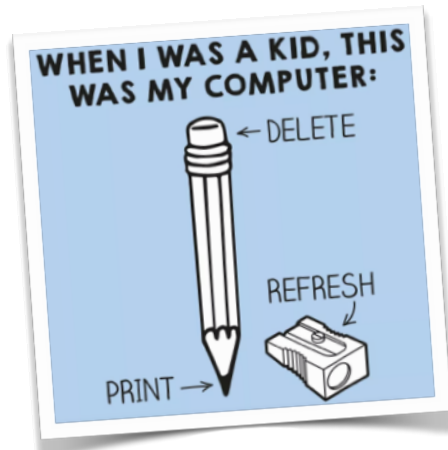
I'm also baking more often - specialities include chocolate orange lightening cake, orange and lemon drizzles, ginger biscuits, apple strudel crumble and of course lots of mince pies over the festive season.

I just can't fathom why Mike has put on so much weight!!"



I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high over vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

JENNY WEBB REMEMBERS WHEN...



This inspired me to buy my mum a new computer for Mothering Sunday...she

Only In Yorkshire

"Would you like anything on your chips?"

"Does it cost extra?"

"Ten pence"

'Okay. I'll have four sausages and a steak pie"



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

CartoonChurch.com

Divine Intervention?

A little boy was playing outside with a broom in the garden. That night his parents realised the broom was still missing and asked their son to go out and bring it in.

When the little boy confessed he was afraid of the dark, his parents tried to comfort him: 'The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid.'

Hesitantly, the little boy opened the back door and peered out. He called softly: 'Lord, please will you pass me the broom?'

Signs found outside churches....

Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!

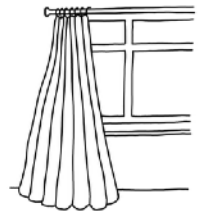
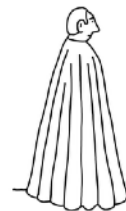
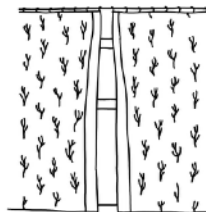
Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!

Dusty Bibles lead to Dirty Lives.

Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world.

COPEs

AND THE HOME FURNISHINGS THAT INSPIRED THEM



CartoonChurch.com

Lent Course Week 3

We continued our lent journey by looking at how spectacles, kettles and electricity can help us think about our faith journey as we travel on towards Easter. Discussions were supported by the book 'At Home for Lent', by Giles Gordon.

For those of us who wear glasses they are part of our everyday lives, helping us to see clearly to drive, read, use our computers or even enjoy a walk outside. At the time of the New Testament there was no treatment for short-sightedness, although they were aware of its affects.

You must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. For if these things are yours, and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For anyone who lacks these things is short-sighted and blind, and is forgetful of the cleansing of past sins. Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more eager to confirm your call and election, for if you do this, you will never stumble. For, in this way, enter into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will be richly provided for you.

2 Peter 1:1-5.

When we are spiritually short-sighted it affects our ability to be fruitful.



When we are spiritually short-sighted we don't see the things that underpin our faith. We forget that our journey starts with being forgiven through Jesus, and continues with His call to follow Him. We don't see the attributes that support our faith, attributes built on a foundation of love. Growing in each of these areas helps us to become more Christ like. We correct our spiritual short-sightedness through seeing things through our relationship with, and being renewed through, Christ. He helps us to see things differently, affects our motivations, desires and purpose for living. Do you put your spiritual spectacles, as well as your physical ones, everyday?

In Britain we expect every house to have a kettle. Energy created from wind, minerals and nuclear fission to boil kettles, but also to wage war. Boiling can sterilise instruments for surgery, or can be used as a dreadful weapon. In our homes we boil kettles to make refreshing drinks, but we treat boiling water carefully, knowing the harm it can cause.

What causes you to boil? Do you ever get really angry? Isaiah, and other prophets from the Old Testament, knew that God gets angry, God loves and also judges His people. He has imposed hardship, military defeat, exile and famine when the Israelites strayed, but He also soothes and restores when met with remorse and praise. Isaiah asks in these verses for God to show himself against Israel's enemies.

Oh that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God beside you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned: because you hid yourself we transgressed.

Isaiah 64:1-5.

It is difficult for us to balance our understanding of a God of love and a God of righteous anger. Do we see God as being on our side, our enemies as His enemies? God is not like a kettle to be switched on at will, to boil at those we want Him to and to sooth us with like-minded love. When you turn your kettle on, remember that love and judgement go hand in hand. Pray for those who do not understand that they can direct God's anger, and for those who are suffering from the religious zeal and intolerance of others.

And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 14:25-33.

What are you really frightened of? In which modern phenomena do you put your trust? Feeling safe and taking a step of faith can feel very different. Peter has seen Jesus walking on water, something impossible made possible, so he steps out in faith. His initial faith is shaken by the storm, and he calls on Jesus to rescue him. Though we might not meet this kind of challenge, everyday our faith is tested both scientifically and spiritually. We have trust, faith, in the electricity we use in our homes, although we know it can be dangerous, causing fires, explosions and electrocutions. We rely on our years of experience and knowledge not to be fearful of it, and we don't really think about it.

It can be the same with our faith, we don't question it until we are in the midst of a spiritual storm, does what we believe really add up? If we thought in the same way about electricity, we would sit in the dark frightened that turning on a light would electrocute us. Whether our faith in electricity is shaken or not, electricity continues to work, and it's the same with our faith. If a circuit is broken, a fuse blown, or the power is not getting through, it can be mended. In the heart of a spiritual storm our electrician is Jesus. He reaches out His hand to rescue us amid the short circuits of despair and the rising waters of self-doubt.

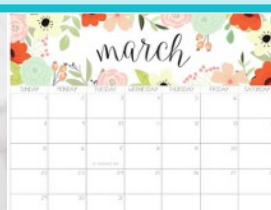
Prayer from the book

Lord Jesus, may we never lose sight of the love that led you to the cross on which you cleansed us from our sins. Confirm your call in us that. We may never stumble in faith, but rather walk in goodness, mutual affection and goodness all the days of our life. Amen.

Jesus you call us over the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea; day by day your sweet voice sounds, saying Christian, follow me.

Next Week

Next week we are looking at family photos, keepsakes and calendars, and possibly radios if time allows. Our discussions include plenty of humour and occasionally memories of old TV programmes! We would love you to join us.



Curates Appraisals

You may know that Carol had her end of year appraisal, which went really well, and so we now look forward to her Priesting later this year.

If Carol had an Uncle Eustace, then maybe the following letter may have been written to help....

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Niece Carol



So, your vicar has introduced staff appraisal for all the officers who work for your church, including yourself as Curate. It seems a very dangerous innovation; as far as I am concerned, ministry is only successful when parishioners have no idea what the clergy get up to.

I imagine that he will look at the number of services you take in a year. Funerals can only be increased if you resort to murder, which is likely to be frowned on – although I have been sorely tempted during endless church council meetings. Perhaps if you take a flask of water wherever you go and if you find a baby unattended, you could resort to a spontaneous baptism. That would get your numbers up, even if returning mothers may marvel at the highly localised and brief shower that seemed to have taken place over the pram.

Visiting targets are easily increased. Compile a list of when parishioners will be out and call on those days; a card through their letterbox will prove to your vicar that you were there. Should they happen to be in, mention that you are collecting for the organ fund and they will immediately excuse themselves for an important appointment. You are then free to move on to clock another visit.

Your vicar is also bound to want to see the congregation increasing. This is not sustainable, and you should put a stop to such ambitions at once. It is easily done. All you have to do is to approach your friends at the local Dancing Class and bribe them with Simon's homemade wine to come along to church several Sunday mornings in a row. If you give them enough wine BEFORE the service, they will be likely to make just enough muted disruption as to leave your vicar a bit rattled, and thinking that perhaps after all, 'less' is 'more' when it comes to the congregation.

But whatever you do, make sure that you never preach a better sermon than he does. You don't want anyone thanking you at the door for your 'so interesting sermon' in front of him, when they have been sleeping through his sermons for years. If you offend the vicar this way, he will take swift revenge, and ask you to organise the parish summer fete.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Easy

5	6	1	6	2	3	7	4	8
2	8	3	5	4	7	1	9	6
6	4	7	8	9	1	3	5	2
1	5	8	7	4	6	9	2	3
4	7	2	3	8	9	6	1	5
9	3	6	1	5	2	4	8	7
7	1	5	2	3	4	8	6	9
3	2	4	9	6	8	5	7	1
8	6	9	7	5	1	2	3	4

Medium

3	9	8	2	1	5	4	7	6
6	1	5	4	9	7	3	2	8
4	2	7	6	3	8	9	1	5
7	8	2	9	5	4	6	3	1
9	3	6	8	1	2	5	4	7
5	4	1	3	7	6	8	9	2
8	5	9	1	4	2	7	6	3
2	7	3	4	1	9	5	8	6
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2	5	3			8	7	4	
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8		7	3					

Easy

	5		8			4	6	
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	7	4			2		9	

Medium

- Christianity is the revelation of God, not the research of man. – JA Stewart
- There is not a single pessimistic note anywhere in the New Testament after the resurrection.
- Those who say they will forgive but can't forget, simply bury the hatchet but leave the handle out for immediate use. – D L Moody – Andrew W Blackwood
- The hurrier I go, the behinder I get! – Anon

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

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