

# The Rambling Rector

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

## National Day of Reflection 23 March

The Church of England is supporting the National Day of Reflection on 23rd of March, the first anniversary of the UK lockdown, to commemorate this tragic loss of life and to stand together with everyone who's grieving.

Organised by Marie Curie, ([www.mariecurie.org.uk](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk)) the National Day of Reflection looks to reflect on our collective loss, support those who've been bereaved, and hope for a brighter future. There are lots of resources to use on both the Marie Curie website, and the Church of England's ([www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org))

**At 12.00 noon** we're all encouraged to spend a minute in silence to remember, and church bells to toll to mark the end of that minute.

**At 8.00pm** there will be a further minute's silence. We're encouraged to come together to light up the night. Stand outside with a light - a candle, a torch, even your phone - to remember someone who's died and show your support to people going through a bereavement.

Alternatively you can shine a light in your window for everyone to see.

### THIS WEEK



#### Easter

Whats On When



#### Clocks Change

1 Hour Forward  
Saturday 27th.



#### Lent Course

Family Photos



Thursday 5.00pm  
please

# Bible Readings

## Hebrews 5:5-10

In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.' And he says in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek.'

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

## John 12:20-33

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. 'Sir,' they said, 'we would like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.'

'Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.' The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, 'This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up<sup>[a]</sup> from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

## A Reflection by Margaret

Well I guess quite a few of us especially the men have played conkers at some time in their lives. A conker the seed from a horse chestnut tree is soaked in vinegar or dried in a slow oven to harden it. It then has a hole drilled in it, and a string attached. Then you use it to bash other people's conkers, the winner being the one whose conker lasts the longest.

But how about instead of using it for a game you plant the conker instead. We have several horse chestnut trees in pots in our garden grown in this way. The conker dies away as the new seedling grows from it. Jesus talks about the seed having to die before new growth can come through. He is talking about his own death, which will be followed by his resurrection and new growth, that new growth being a new covenant with God. His disciples will continue to grow in their faith and the message of Jesus will grow through them to be worldwide. Through his death his message lived on.

At this time of year we see lots of new growth; the trees are starting to show buds, the daffodils and crocuses are in bloom, soon the birds will start nest building.

As we approach Easter we think of new growth, we look forward to the resurrection of Christ. We have the benefit of hindsight which those first disciples didn't have, we know what happened to Jesus after his crucifixion. The story of the seed is one of John's signposts about what will happen to Jesus.

At Easter we usually renew our baptismal vows, renewing our faith in Christ and our calling to follow him. Last week Neil touched on dissonance, discord and we have discord in our lives and society now. Jesus dealt with discord every day and he showed how much God loved us by dying for us, the ultimate sacrifice.

I know how hard it can be, we are bombarded daily by the media, who give different accounts of what's happening, they turn news items around sometimes for their own ends. So easily this can lead to disagreements between families and friends. We just need to remember that God is with us.

We can disagree but still love them, respect them, even if their views are different to ours.

Last week Neil also mentioned Saint Cuthbert, who lived in a time of discord and as a true Northumbrian I felt I had to elaborate a bit on his story.

St Cuthbert was brought up to be a warrior, he even went into battle, but what he saw on the battle field was totally at odds to his Christian faith. He left the battlefield and returned home, he could not reconcile the brutality he'd seen with Jesus' teaching.

Cuthbert left home and went to the abbey in Melrose on the Scottish border, where under the tutelage of St Boisil he became a monk. To cut a long story short during his life he travelled the countryside preaching the gospel and performed healing miracles. Eventually he became bishop of Lindisfarne having spent several years as a recluse on one of the Farne Islands, which is now known as Cuthbert's island.

Cuthbert lived in a time of discord, warrior chiefs fought amongst themselves, Vikings, norsemen raided Britain there was discord within the church over whether to follow the Celtic or Roman type of church. This came to a head at Whitby when the date of Easter was changed to the Roman church's date, all religion now came under the rule of Rome. Cuthbert disagreed with this but had to accept it.

When Cuthbert died he was interred on Lindisfarne but even then he was not allowed to rest in peace. When Vikings came raiding he was moved and seven monks spent seven years carrying his coffin from place to place. Eventually he was enshrined in Durham Cathedral.

Throughout his life and even in death Cuthbert was a victim of discord but he never once wavered from his faith in Jesus Christ. Cuthbert was a very spiritual leader, the Holy Spirit flowed through him as it did in Jesus.

We have many Saints in Britain, quite a few from the North, many who lived in times of great discord, uncertainty, peril, but throughout the discord they found harmony in and through their faith.

So let us be like those people who remain steadfast in their faith let us be steadfast in ours.

Let us pray, talk, listen to God place everything at the foot of the cross and help God to bring harmony to our world.

IF GOD IS WITH US WHO CAN OVERCOME US !!

I would like to leave you with a Celtic prayer.

Alone with none but you my God,

I journey on my way.

What need I fear when you are near,

O, King of night and day.

More safe am I within your hand,

Than if a host did round me stand. Amen.



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?”**

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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 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





**“See! The winter is past; the rains are  
on the earth; the season of singing  
heard in our land”**

**On Sunday 18th April  
at 10.00am at Finningley and 11.00am at  
to hold public worship in our churches**

We know this will be good news to many, and to ensure we comply  
with the government’s guidance on managing the risk of COVID-19

**What we have done:**

- We have carried out a COVID-19 risk assessment
- We have cleaning, hand cleansing and hygiene procedures in place, in line with government guidance
- We have taken all reasonable steps to help everyone maintain a 2m distance between different users of our church

**What we expect you to do:**

- Refrain from entering if you are feeling unwell or have experienced any COVID-19 symptoms in the past seven days
- Take responsibility for your own safety and that of your household and other people by maintaining social distancing and observing all hygiene measures
- Wear a face mask (this is a legal requirement, unless exempt)

are over and gone. Flowers appearing  
has come, the cooing of doves is  
our land.”

Song of Songs 2:11-12

**8th April 2021\***

**From at Auckley we will once again be able  
in our two church buildings.**

enable this to happen we have read and complied  
ing the risk of COVID-19 in places of worship.

**What to do if you would like to attend:**

We would love to welcome everyone, however, social distancing means we may not be able fit everyone in the church building.

**If you would like to attend worship on Sundays in either Finningley or Auckley then please book in with us by Friday morning.** This is to ensure we can make this as fair as possible and maximise the capacity we have.

Please either email us at [parishoffice@fabparish.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@fabparish.org.uk)  
or  
call us on **01302 770240**.

Whilst these measures are in place we will also live stream the service from Finningley on Zoom. Please contact us for sign in details.

**\*(or the first Sunday after the Government implements Step 2 of the Roadmap)**



# Easter Services 2021

**Maundy Thursday - 7.00pm on Zoom**

**Good Friday - 3.00pm onwards YouTube**

**Easter Sunday - 10.00am on Zoom**

We have worship planned for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and of course Easter Sunday, and we'll be trying to make it as engaging and interactive as we can as we again stand in awe at the love that God has for his people.

**Maundy Thursday** will involve some food, a drink, and a bowl of water, but no foot washing.

**Good Friday** will be a reflection recorded in Church looking at Jesus' final words.

**Easter Sunday** we'll have the opportunity to renew our baptism vows, and because some of the older Easter hymns are no longer under copyright, we will be able to sing them!

# EARTH HOUR 2021

**SATURDAY 27TH MARCH**

Apart of our commitment to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emissions across the Diocese by 2030, you are invited to observe Earth Hour 2021 between 8.30pm and 9.30pm.

Earth Hour will be observed around the world. The easiest way to participate is simply to turn off the lights at home for 60 minutes at 8.30pm. But there are more ideas and resources here: [download Your Guide to Earth Hour](#). You are invited to show your support on social media by using the hashtag **#EarthHourUK**



# Lent Course Week 4

This week we looked at family photos, keepsakes and calendars, again supported by the book 'At Home in Lent' by Gordon Giles, the prayers are also taken from the book.



What does family mean to you? Who do you include? Do you include those no longer with us?

Samuel Pepys, in his famous 17<sup>th</sup> century diaries, described his family as including his servants. In Romeo and Juliette the families included everyone under the same roof, including Juliette's nurse. The Latin word famulus means a slave, the word familia means ownership of someone. In the past the head of the family was not actually seen as a member of the family, but instead understood to be the one they had to obey.

Our family photos show the different shapes and sizes of families that exist today.

Photos didn't exist at the time of Jesus, but family genealogy was important, the gospel of Matthew opens with the family history of Jesus.

What do you think Jesus is saying here about family? Rather than rejecting his mother and brothers, remember his concern for the ongoing care of Mary expressed in some of the last words he spoke from the cross, here Jesus is redefining the understanding of family. Families which are linked not through kinship, but through common purpose, as we are linked as members of the church family. We choose carefully the photos we show a home, those showing the faces of those we love, associated with events we cherish. They show continuing relationships through the generations. Remember, we were members of Christ's family, working together do God's will, linked to all the saints that have gone before.

<sup>46</sup> While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. <sup>47</sup> Someone told him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>48</sup> But to the one who had told him this, Jesus<sup>[b]</sup> replied, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" <sup>49</sup> And pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

**Matthew 12:46-50.**

**God of love, whose son Jesus Christ shared the family home at Nazareth, draw the whole human family to yourself, and grant that all human families may dwell in love and peace and mutual care, always. Amen.**

## KEEPSAKES- THROWING AND GATHERING.

Do you have a lot of, even too much stuff? What really matters to you and why?



Keepsakes also often help us to remember those who are no longer with us. It's not easy deciding what is to be kept and what is not. How much stuff do we continually gather at home?

Keepsakes are more than the object they are, it is what they represent. Keepsakes emphasise that the person has gone, but also helps us to keep their memory alive. Remembering and forgetting are linked, a keepsake helps us to do both at the same time, and helps us to move forward.

**Christ Jesus, you are remembered in the breaking of bread: help us remember with gratitude and acceptance all those whom we love but see no longer, ever mindful that nothing can separate us from your love. Amen.**

### **CALENDAR- DAY BY DAY.**

How much of your life is bound by calendars and diaries? How would it be if the opposite were the case? Calendars remind us of birthdays and anniversaries, they acknowledge the passing of time. We record appointments we don't want to forget. Do you prefer your calendar to be less busy, as most are currently, or do you like it to be full? Calendars keep us busy and record how busy we have been. They record our interactions with others, showing our network of relationships with others, and with God. Liturgical calendars keep a record of Holy Day, and the story of our faith, they are an invitation for us to meet together in prayer and fellowship.

The writer looks at the business of our lives, and the tendency for us to be guided even ruled, by our calendars or diaries. However busy we are, whatever we need to do, time continues to march on, we can't stop it. We need to place out busy lives against the eternal, divine time of God, who is past, present and future. 'Everything he does endures forever,...so that all will stand in awe of him'. Look at your calendar and remember you are under God's loving and creative gaze.

**3** For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
**2** a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
**3** a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
**4** a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
**5** a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
**6** a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
**7** a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
**8** a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.**

What gain have the workers from their toil? <sup>10</sup> I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. <sup>11</sup> He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. <sup>12</sup> I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; <sup>13</sup> moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. <sup>14</sup> I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. <sup>15</sup> That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by. **Ecclesiastes 3 v9-15**

**Oh God of the trinity, you hold all the dimensions of space and time in your hand. Help us to both live for the moment and in eternity, so that whether we are busy or lonely, we may always be sustained by you. Amen**

Next week we will be looking at night lights, the Bible and chairs.

As we will be meeting on the anniversary lockdown when a day of reflection is being held. We will open with one of the prayers written for this day. Please have a candle with you and at 8pm we will light a candle in memory of those who have died.



# Prayer

## Prayer for 5th Sunday of Lent

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son  
out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Reflect

Loving God,  
You hold all our times in your hands, our past, our present, our future. Be close to us now as we remember all the difficulties and disappointments of the past year. Be especially close to all of us who are thinking of someone we loved and knew, but see no longer, whether family, friend, colleague or neighbour. Help us to trust that they are at peace with you, and comfort us with your presence.

## Connect

Loving God,  
You place us in families and communities, and we give you thanks for all those around us who serve us and help us in so many ways. Give wisdom to community leaders, to our schools, hospitals, care homes and other agencies who make a difference to our lives. Help each of us to have the courage to reach out with thanks and kindness to those around us and to speak words of faith as we share the good news of your love.

## Hope

Loving God,  
As we journey towards Easter, help us to live as people of hope, knowing that beyond the pain of the cross lies the joy of resurrection. Inspire us in our worship, through our churches and in our homes, that we may bring glory to you and joy to others. Be with those who are struggling in mind, body or spirit, and give courage to those who are facing uncertainty and change ahead. Help each of us to keep our eyes fixed on you, that we may reflect your light to all whom we meet.

## Stations Of The Cross

In the earliest days of Christian pilgrimage, visitors to Jerusalem would walk the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. In the late fourteenth century, the Franciscan protectors of the holy places in Jerusalem put up images at which people would pause, reflect and pray. Eventually, those pilgrims brought the practice of walking a path of images from Christ's passion back to their home countries, and many churches have images of the traditional Stations of the Cross on their walls. If you can, do also try to look at the powerful images of the biblical stations by Nicholas Markell. These are featured in the book *Walking the Way of the Cross* and the posters that go with it, and they can also be found online.



## Walking the Way of the Cross

By The Church of England

 Apple Podcasts

 Spotify

 Amazon Music

 Overcast

 Pocket Casts

 RSS feed

This podcast is hosted by  Captivate

From the 21st March sign up to a daily podcast marking stations of the cross.

The link to the page on the Church of England website is <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/stations-cross#na>



# THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE CURATE IS ON  
'THOUGHT FOR THE DAY'



## PEOPLE SHE HOPES ARE LISTENING



THE BISHOP



ALL HER SOCIAL  
MEDIA FOLLOWERS



A TV TALENT SCOUT

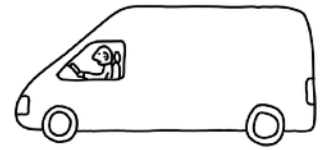


HER MUM

## PEOPLE WHO ARE ACTUALLY LISTENING



SOMEONE DOING  
THE WASHING UP



A DELIVERY DRIVER



A TENNIS FAN WITH  
TUNING DIFFICULTIES



AN INSOMNIAC USING THE  
RADIO TO GET TO SLEEP

CartoonChurch.com

## 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](mailto:hannah@centenaryproject.org.uk) or 07875 500555.

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