

The Rambling Rector

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



Weekly Update

What A Difference A Day Makes

When Boris didn't appear at 5.00pm on Monday evening I suspected something was afoot. So, I sat there waiting, with a certain nervousness in the pit of my stomach... 'What A Difference A Day Makes' goes the song, but in this case it took just 5 minutes... life as we all knew it was turned on its head.

The word is changing, our lives are changing, and in the midst of this we perhaps long for some stability. Where can we find it? In Jesus Christ, because he "is the same yesterday and today and forever". Hebrews 13:8

1

BIBLE READINGS

Romans 8:6-11 and
John 11:1-45

2

PRAYERS

The prayer for the day,
and other prayers.

3

REFLECTION

A reflection on the
readings, no not a full
sermon Fred!



Good News Stories

Cafe 3:30 at Home -
a successful
delivery!



Photos

Photos sent in this
week from around
the parishes.



Rectory Revelation

This week a secret
passage!

Bible Readings for 5th Sunday of Lent

Romans 8:6-11

- 6** The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.
7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.
8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you

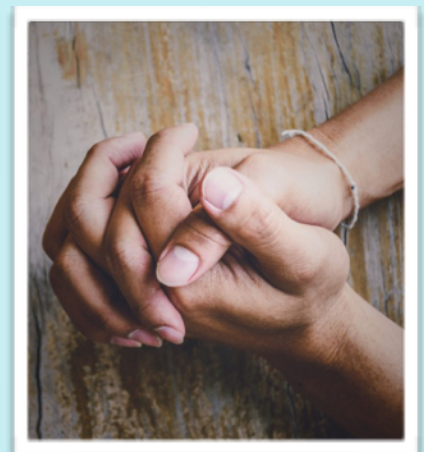
- 9** You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.
10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life^[a] because of righteousness. **11** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of^[b] his Spirit who lives in you.

John 11:1-45

- Now a man named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay ill, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) **3** So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is ill.'
4 When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' **5** Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** So when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was two more days, **7** and then he said to his disciples, 'Let us go back to Judea.'
8 'But Rabbi,' they said, 'a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?'

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen



ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

9 Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the day-time will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. **10** It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.'

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.'

12 His disciples replied, 'Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.' **13** Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

14 So then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, **15** and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.'

16 Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. **18** Now Bethany was less than two miles[b] from Jerusalem, **19** and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. **20** When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.'

23 Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.'

24 Martha answered, 'I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.'

25 Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; **26** and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

27 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.'

28 After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. 'The Teacher is here,' she said, 'and is asking for you.' **29** When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. **30** Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where



It looks like Spring is springing!



Martha had met him. **31** When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die’

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. **34** ‘Where have you laid him?’ he asked.

‘Come and see, Lord,’ they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’

37 But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. **39** ‘Take away the stone,’ he said.

‘But, Lord,’ said Martha, the sister of the dead man, ‘by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.’

40 Then Jesus said, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?’

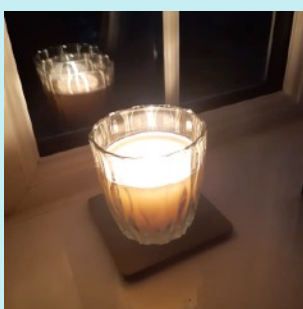
41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, ‘Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **42** I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.’

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ **44** The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face.

Jesus said to them, ‘Take off the grave clothes and let him go.’

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

NATIONAL



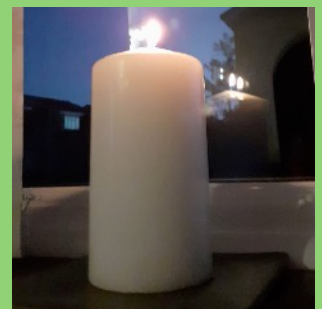
DAY



OF



PRAYER



Reflection

Resurrection

In the Old Testament we find the the Ark of the Covenant. (This was before Indiana Jones got his Hands on it!) This was a chest made out of acacia wood and covered with gold, inside and out, and it had gold rings to hold gold covered acacia wood poles. Inside were placed the most important objects of the Israelites. There was an atonement cover over the chest, made of pure gold. There were two cherubim made out of hammered gold on either end of the cover. This was the mercy seat, the throne of God. It was here that the high priest offered the blood of the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. With that forgiveness, each person received a new start, new life. The priests were not worthy to offer permanent forgiveness, so the Day of Atonement was repeated every year up until Jesus arrived on the scene.

Jesus then became the final great High Priest in history and gave us a permanent solution to our sin. He gave us the resurrection, the ultimate victory over death. In our reading from John we hear all about Lazarus who was a good friend of Jesus. They sent for Jesus to come and heal him, but He didn't go straight away. When Jesus arrived Lazarus had already been dead for four days, and He went to the tomb and wept. Back in those days, the people believed that the soul left a person's body at the third day. So by day four they wouldn't believe Jesus could do anything.

However, at the tomb Jesus called for Lazarus to come out! He raised him from the dead so that the people would see the glory of God. When Martha wept over the death of her brother, Jesus spoke His word and told her that He is the resurrection. He doesn't just resurrect us, but through Him that gain eternal life.

As we approach Easter, we will hear again how Jesus suffered death on a cross and was laid in a tomb. He was the Lamb slaughtered for our sins, and His blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat of God for our salvation. Three days later, the disciples found an empty tomb. In John 20, Mary looked inside and saw two angels sitting where Jesus' body had lain, one at the head and one at the foot. The Lamb no longer lay on the mercy seat. He was raised to new life for us, and when we believe in Him we never die. Do you believe?

I am the resurrection and the life.

Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.

John 11:25-26

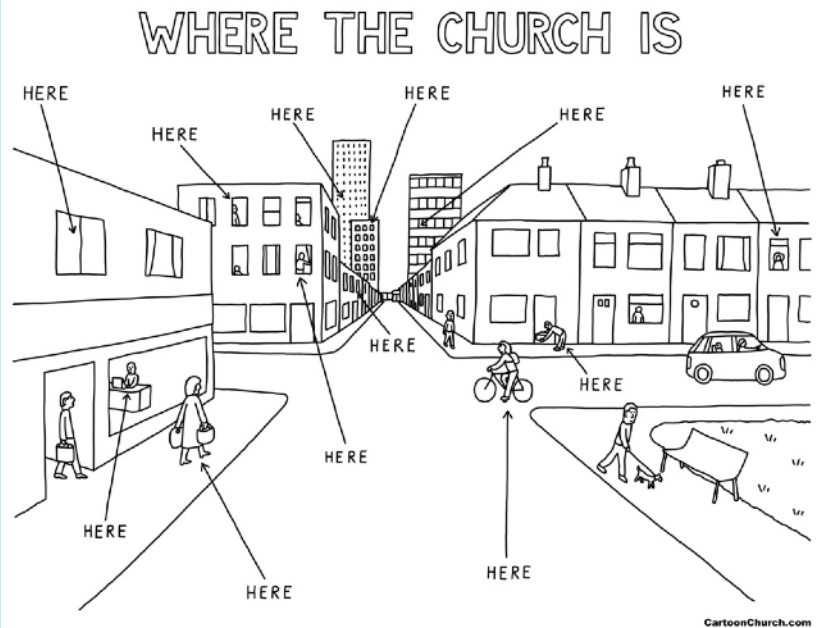
DON'T FORGET

Please don't forget that the clocks go forward this weekend. Not sure how far forward but I think 3 months might do.

IN THE POST OFFICE

A gracious lady was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked Bridget behind the counter.

The lady paused for a moment. "Only the Ten Commandments," she said politely.



Rectory Revelation

Uncovering the Secrets of the Rectory

Did you know there is a secret tunnel from the Rectory to St Oswald's to keep the Rector's hair dry? We're currently working on one to St Saviour's!



Good News

Cafe 3:30

We couldn't hold Cafe 3:30, so Cafe 3:30 went out and about. Hannah, Karen and Stephen dropped resources off (it was still okay to do that then) and we had lots of encouraging messages from families. Here's a shot of Jessica and Edward.



Good News & Pictures

From around the parishes



Thanks to our family for their loving gifts and wishes on Mothering Sunday. As we were unable to meet as a family we shared this picture.

Note the bottle on the right is Ginger Beer and not real ale as I thought! Ed.

From a member of the church family:

"Sometimes we get wrapped up in our own immediate situation and begin to feel sorry for ourselves when we must look outside our circle and see how we can help others, perhaps in new and different ways.

Only this morning I had a text message, offering to help, where they could, from someone who used to live next door to us as she grew up. She moved away and while we saw her parents from time to time I only saw her on very rare occasions .

She moved back into the village a couple of years ago but still we have had no contact until now. This has convinced me that human kindness and support is out there."



A huge thank you to The Ridge College for their gift of Easter eggs for the Finningley Easter Raffle. The students chose to support us as part of the citizenship studies and were due to visit, but with the Coronavirus that wasn't possible and so Philip acted as their representative.

Please note: The Easter Raffle draw has been postponed due to the current situation. Once this is eased, we will draw the winners. Fear not! There are long dates on everything, and chocolate is good anytime!

Magnolia in full bloom and a cheeky squirrel in Jenny Webbs garden, from Keith some cheery daffodils, and from Ven Bob Fitzharris his rock garden...although we suspect Lesley had a lot to do with it!

FOR ALL HEALTH WORKERS

Lord Jesus, who healed the sick and gave them new life, be with doctors, nurses and carers, as they act as agents of your healing touch.

In desperate times, keep them strong yet loving; and when their work is done, be with them in their weariness and in their tears. Amen.

(Althea Hayton, adapted)

FOR PEACE IN OUR HEARTS

Lord of all,
guide our praying,
comfort our anxious minds,
bring peace to our hearts.
May we put our trust in you,
our rock and our foundation,
source of life and love. Amen



Get In Touch

Don't forget, if you have any good news stories, helpful information, prayers, photos, funny stories about church life, poems, or Christian cartoons, then please do send them in and we will try and include them.

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We also have a parish WhatsApp group. If you would like to join please text Hannah Redeyoff on 07875 500555