

Dear friends,

“Five go mad in Eden” sounds like a good title for an Enid Blyton book, but on Saturday five of us from East Budleigh and Yettington travelled down to Dunsford on the edge of Dartmoor for the inaugural pilgrimage walk called the “Eden way” that joins together all six churches in their mission community. In every church we stopped at (all were beautiful) there was a reading, meditation, and prayer based on the creation story in Genesis. It was a lovely 12 mile walk in blazing sunshine through gorgeous countryside in lovely company and an ingenious way to integrate the different churches.



The Breath of Life

Obviously, I couldn't complete the last two stages of the walk because that continued on Sunday morning, but what a Sunday morning of worship it proved to be! Rather than put people off, the carpark upheaval at St. Peter's seems to have encouraged people to attend church so at the main service we thought 85 wafers would suffice and then I took a look at the board and saw 96! It was such an uplifting atmosphere, I preached on Grace and peace, and with us breaking 111 together with the 8 O'clock service I ended the day feeling well blessed, so we capped it off by listening to Jazz at the London Inn in Ottery St. Mary!

Sunday 14th August – Trinity 9 – (Proper 15)

I will be presiding at both services at St. Peter's while Archdeacon Trevor Jones is presiding at the 9.30am at All Saints East Budleigh and at the 11am at St. Michael's.

Jeremiah 23: 23-29. The problem with prophecy is that you can only decide if it was really true in hindsight. False prophets telling people only what they wanted to hear have always been a problem. God sees and knows all that is being said and done in his name and his word is like a hammer that smashes rocks so true prophets feel driven to say unpopular things like threatening the national interest and unmask hypocrisy and abuse of power and possibly puts the true prophet in real danger.

Hebrews 11:29 – 12: 2. Easily the most interesting of the examples of faith used today is Rahab, the foreigner and prostitute, who is mentioned as an ancestor of Jesus in Matthew 1:5. All the examples used are not just good examples to emulate from a storybook past but are an ever present "cloud of witnesses" which leads directly to the Christian belief in the "communion of saints" of those both dead and alive.

Luke 12: 49-56. Fire in Luke's gospel denotes both purification and the Holy Spirit. The passage then goes on to say that the gospel of Christ will inevitably divide families, especially in its original Jewish context but also in the modern family setting. Then the ability of people to be either unwilling or unable to read the signs of the times, a task best left to prophets that are especially close to God.

Autumn lunchtime concerts at St. Peter's

Friday 7th October at 1.30 Ian Curror – organ

Friday 14th October at 1.30 “Pieces of eight” directed by Mark Perry

Friday 21st October at 1.30 Stephen Tanner – Organ

Friday 28th October at 1.30 Stephen Bell - Organ

Cream tea concert

The friends of All Saints have organised a cream tea concert in the church Hall East Budleigh on **Saturday 27th August at 3pm** featuring the Budleigh Salterton Male Voice Choir. The cost is £10 for adults and £5 for children, which includes the cream tea! Tickets available from the East Budleigh Community shop, East Budleigh Garage, or can be reserved by ringing Jenny Hill on 442140

Thought for the day

Our first meditation in Saint Mary's church Dunsford left the biggest impression on me. After the reading taken from Genesis 1: 1-5, the meditation describes God's act of creation as “the first language of God” and this language conveys the essential message of life and light and springs from the love overflowing from the eternal dance of God. This image struck a chord with me because the way the Eastern church has traditionally described the Holy Trinity is as an eternal divine dance (Perichoresis in Greek). Saying yes to God is us collaborating with God – joining in with this divine dance. This is a lovely image that is far more evocative than the rather daunting word “Discipleship”. This being held in the church dedicated to the virgin Mary, the obvious connection is to make the connection with Mary's “Yes” to the divine invitation to submit to God's will for her life and to use Mary as an example to inspire us to do the same. Mary joined in with this eternal divine dance and the challenge is for us to all do the same in our own way, in our own time, utilising all the gifts and skills at our disposal.

The prayer for Today is the end of the catholic prayer called the Angelus

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

Love and peace,
Martin