

Dear friends,

We welcomed 3-year-old Charlotte into the community of faith on Sunday at a very well attended 10am service – well over 100 - with baptism. Our “Funfaith” children were also in attendance. We couldn’t use the usual font because of all the Music festival paraphernalia strewn around it so we did the baptism on the stage in front of everybody which worked extremely well – so it’s an ill wind that blows nobody any good. It gave the opportunity to talk about the significance of all our common baptisms.

A very busy day was brought to a liturgical close by our superb Choral evensong. You may have noticed that I missed singing the first collect so I sang it after the other two which confused the choir – I like to keep everyone on their toes!

Sunday 16th July – 6th of Trinity – Proper 10

Canon Mike Williams will be presiding at both services at St. Peter’s and I will be presiding at All Saints and St. Michael’s at 9.30am and 11am respectively.

Isaiah 55: 10-13. The word of the Lord is powerful and accomplishes everything that God purposes. People ascribe that power understandably to scripture and we are accustomed to saying “This is the word of the Lord” at the end of Bible readings but the centre of our faith is of course “The word made flesh” – Jesus Christ - which is infinitely more powerful.

Romans 8: 1-11. The written law of the Bible proved incapable of dealing with the failings of humanity and so the Grace of God revealed through the sacrifice of the “word made flesh” is far superior according to this important chapter in Paul’s seminal letter. Paul contrasts those who live according to the flesh, which is a way of life that makes no reference to its creator and those who live their lives according to the Spirit revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Anyone who sees and believes what was revealed through the cross of Christ know there is no condemnation which there would have been under the law.

Matthew 13: 1-9. 18-23. One of the best known of Jesus’ parables regarding how the gospel is received by various types of people. The “explanation” (verses 18 to 23) of the parable may be an insertion by the early church but is no less valuable for that. It appears to say that a person has to be ready to receive good news, otherwise it is rejected one way or

another. But the way life has dealt with you which dictates how you react, doesn't invalidate an objective truth that God wills the salvation of all.

Saturday 15th July: Vicarage Garden party in East Budleigh

Please note: If it rains (and the forecast is not good) do still come. We will hold it indoors and in good British fashion we will laugh about it and still have a good time!

We have held this annually for a few years now. It starts around 2pm. It is free and just a time to mingle in good company with others from the RMC. You need to bring something to sit on and food and drink and is on a bring and share basis. Thank you to David Ottley from Otterton for providing the Marquee again! Remember, this is a wildlife garden and there is still a prize on offer to anyone who spots a Panda in our Bamboo Forest.

Sunday 23rd July at Midday.

The St. Peter's BBQ that celebrates our patron saint had to be postponed because of the Music festival so has been moved to the 23rd July. Cost is £12.50 and tickets are available from Fran in the office on Wednesday or Friday mornings or from Iris after the morning service.

Thought for Today

Currently inspired by everything Indian because we are off there in October and are planning a Sabbatical there is 2025, it was a treat on Friday to go to the concert at St. Peter's called "Bach and Ragas" a mixture of Bach (a superb violinist) and Indian folk tunes from Bengal and Assam performed by a trio of Indian musicians. A curious mix perhaps on the face of it but they presented a fascinating evening. They played separately in the first half and then the violinist worked with them on traditional Indian tunes.

It was perhaps a lesson in how cultures could and do often jar with each other but can under certain circumstances can learn to compliment each other. This is the tack I take with other faiths. The Vatican said as a result of Vatican II in the 1960's "reject nothing that is good or true in other religions".

And there will be facets of many different faiths where this applies. Equally there will be things that you definitely want to reject in other faiths. But before you start looking at other faiths you need to be secure and knowledgeable about your own faith first. From a strong foundation in your

own faith – that provides a secure platform with which to investigate the intricacies of others and discover what we can learn from them.

The female violinist was a virtuoso in her art, steeped in the western classical tradition. From that position she was able to appreciate a very different art form in its own right in the case of the Indian classical music trio and from there work together with them to produce something slightly different again as a result taking the best from each world.

The Prayer for Today is a penetrating prayer by Christian mystic St. John of the cross.

Dear Lord,

Give me the truths which are veiled by the doctrines and articles of faith,

Which are masked by the pious words of sermons and books.

Let my eyes penetrate the veil and tear off the mask

That I can see you face to face.

Love and peace,

Martin