

Dear friends,

Three monumental readings from the Bible today which I have distilled into an eight-minute reflection on YouTube called "Sowing the seed"

<https://youtu.be/ZQCY5cFGGtK>

Or you can read it here. <https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2020/07/sowing-seed.html>

Or, come to St. Peter's on Sunday at 10am to hear it delivered live!

Tomorrow's services

9.30am. Holy Communion at All Saints presided over by Rev. Chris Cant.

10am. Holy Communion at St. Peter's presided over by me.

11am. Service of the word at St. Michael's led by John Archibald

These are now confirmed

Website.

Thank you to Penny Kurowski for all the hard work she has put in to maintaining and improving our website for so long. The baton has now been passed to Lucinda Stuart-Banks at St. Peter's, our new webmaster. For any contributions to the website the email remains the same

website@rmcommunity.co.uk. **Welcome** to the job Lucinda!

Brandy Head Bothy

Sam Walker, who farms the land around this historic landmark on Brandy Head has developed the old WW2 lookout as a waystation for people walking the South-West coast path. On Sunday from 2pm-5pm Sam is holding an opening ceremony. There is no road access to Brandy head as you know so will make for a lovely walk for those who are able on Sunday afternoon.

I like that!

Not being very creative or inventive myself I do admire it in others. Simple and quirky things like this garden gate photographed near Tipton St. John made us stop and stare. Even the handle is a pair of secateurs.



Thought for the day

My “New normal” I decided early on during this crisis was to be fitter, lighter, and more in tune with our beautiful environment. The slower pace of life helped in raising my ecological awareness by giving me more time but lighter and fitter has taken a much more disciplined approach to exercise and diet. Because of the symbiotic relationship between mind, body and spirit, the physical lockdown and my physical response has also raised my capacity to hone my theological and spiritual approach to life, faith and worship. Life is probably the greatest teacher and my mum’s death and presiding at other people’s funerals under severe constraints has again forced me to think through what I think I am doing and why?

You cannot buy experience, and the last three months has piled new experience upon new experience. It has also had the effect of encouraging me to explore our reliance on God and prayer in more depth. I was already deeply drawn to the quieter and more reflective approach and I was therefore “shovel ready” to delve into Ignatian spirituality and drawn back to the depths of monastic practice that formed me at Mirfield.

But having a sense of humour is also extremely high on my list of attributes that I have always sensed is indispensable but primarily and importantly having revealed to us quite forcible this past three months is that we don’t actually have any control over what happens to us. We only have control over how we respond.

That is the greatest lesson of all and a lesson we all need to learn.

The Prayer for Today is known by Anglicans as the “collect for purity” and starts our Eucharistic rites. It was translated by Thomas Cranmer for the 1549 prayer book and was a translation of a 10th century prayer. It has been described by some as amongst the most beautiful words ever written in the English language and I love it. Here is the 1979 version in contemporary language.

Almighty God

To whom all hearts are open,

All desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden,

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit

That we may perfectly love you

And worthily magnify your Holy name

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

Love and peace,

Martin

Please note my new email address is vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk