

Dear friends,

Week two of the re-awakening seems to have passed off without any crisis. At St. Peter's it was strange having my temperature taken going into church. The joke was that it was a churchmanship monitor (nice one, Pat) which I presumably passed as they let me in.

I have heard directly from people who were at Otterton and East Budleigh and all was good and everything appears to be going in the right direction. My in-laws, David and Linda were with us this weekend and we treated them to some lengthy walks in the beautiful place that we live (although one walk was significantly longer than we thought it was!) We picnicked on the grassy bank on the cliffs overlooking Budleigh Salterton coming from Brandy head. The sea was deep Blue, the sun hot and the vista just gorgeous and we don't have to get in a car once. We do genuinely thank God for calling us to such a beautiful place.



Sunday 19th July – Trinity 6 – Proper 11

The services are as follows. Note, there is now definitely a service at St. Michael's because the fete has been cancelled of course.

9.30am All saints E.B. Holy Communion with myself

10am. St. Peter's. Holy Communion with Rev. Karen Young

11am St. Michael's. Holy Communion with myself

The lectionary readings set for this Sunday are as follows;

Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19. One of our options for today was the opportunity to hear a reading from the Apocrypha. The thrust of this treatise on “Wisdom” is that God is merciful to all that he created and He does not need to justify himself to anyone. His mercy though should not be mistaken for weakness, but it comes from his strength. The main message is that as followers of this God we too must use whatever power or strength we possess to act in the same way. “The righteous must be Kind” (Verse 19)

Romans 8: 12-25. The magnificent extent of this part of chapter 8, challenges any theology that limits God’s redemption to just human beings. We need to be more extensive and more embracing in our view of God’s all-encompassing sovereignty over all creation. Our identity within this great scheme of things is as “children of God” and so we have the right to speak to God in familial terms. Being “joint heirs with Christ” makes Jesus our brother and in him we are all brothers and sisters.

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43. The sovereignty of God to decide the extent of human salvation is given a twist in this parable (which only appears in Matthew). The takeaway message for us is that you cannot judge the destiny of anyone because we just cannot tell. Wheat and tares (Darnel) are indistinguishable from each other in the early stages of growth. God is sovereign, merciful, and just. God decides, not us.

Musical Interlude!

“Now the Green Blade riseth” by Laura Wright. See “thought “ below. One of my hot faves for my funeral though I must add I’m not planning on going anywhere any time soon (although being pragmatic none of us really knows!).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-5Bi2jM40E>

Thought for Today

Here is a useful little exercise. At your funeral what music would you want? What hymns would you like or perhaps you don’t want any? If not, why not? I have imagined many different scenarios and my choices have varied enormously so what you think now will almost certainly change. I have imagined certain popular music at my funeral plus classical pieces as well but the hymns I’d choose now aren’t ones I’d have chosen a year ago. Writing this information down is very helpful for those you leave behind and quite a comfort too. I didn’t have to think what mum wanted for example because we’d talked about it so we knew and knowing that she wanted them lent poignancy to the hymns. I’ve always had an appetite for the melancholic myself and go through phases but currently “Be still my soul” is right up there as is “Now the green blade riseth”. Instrumental music includes Gorecki’s

“Synphony of sorrowful songs” 2nd movement (I’ll have no bright clothes and smiles at MY funeral!) or perhaps Pie Jesu now comes to mind. I’ll change my mind perhaps but at least a known choice lets people know what you have liked at some point so they wouldn’t be far wrong if they chose them. So that is today’s challenge!

The Prayer for Today is by Thomas a Kempis (1380 – 1471) who wrote the devotional classic “The imitation of Christ”.

Who can tell what a day may bring forth?

Gracious God,

**move us to live every day as if it were to be our last,
for we do not know if it might be.**

Cause us to live as if we know it is our last hour.

**O grant that we may not die with any guilt on our consciences,
or any known unrepented sin,
but that we may be found in Christ,**

who is our only Saviour and Redeemer.

Love and peace,

Martin

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