

Dear friends,

There is no official scarecrow festival this year in East Budleigh but a former resident, Monty Elliott, now residing at the Firs in Budleigh Salterton was desperate to contribute something to this second weekend in June and the care home delivered this magnificent scarecrow which now has pride of place outside All Saints church. Can you see who it is?



Sunday June 20th – Trinity 3 – Proper 7

I will be presiding at both All Saints and St. Michael's and the venerable Trevor Jones will be presiding at both the services at St. Peter's.

Job 38: 1-11. Is there no point to the human quest for knowledge? The point of chapters 38 to 41 is to state that humans are not able to see things from God's standpoint. We couldn't make any sense of reality even if we could. The quest for knowledge and for answers to the most perplexing questions of human existence must never be discouraged but our intellects are tiny when measured against an infinite universe and God deals compassionately with humanity despite our inhumanity to each other.

2 Corinthians 6:1-13. We are working together with Christ to bring the salvation of the world wrought by God in Christ, so we are ministers of that good news. Our work is part and parcel of the saving revelation in Christ – co-workers in fact. Paul describes the ups and downs of that ministry – the truth of it in God’s eyes and the slanders that come our way. The power of the gospel is from God but its credibility owes much to its ministers.

Mark 4: 35-41. Jesus shares our predicament amidst the storms of life, but this parable tells us that Jesus can do something about them as well. That Jesus was sleeping presents us with a picture of someone at total peace, even in the face of a storm. The parable offers us not simply a strategy for coping but the promise of salvation.

Garden party date change: Now Saturday the 24th July

You will all be aware of course of the delay to “Freedom day”, which means that the date of the garden party has had to be unavoidably moved back a month. All other details remain the same!

The lighter side! Courtesy of Mike in Gainford.

If you meet someone new at a party, how can you find out if he is a Yorkshireman? You don't have to. Within five minutes he will tell you.!

Thought for Today

When you watch something dystopian and uncomfortable it gives new impetus to all the things that you are trying to bring about in life. I watched the new prison drama on the BBC yesterday called “Time” and it revealed a nightmare world in which I am not sure I could survive. The feral, brutally violent world of restriction, exploitation, bullying and coarseness shown in this first episode depressed me enormously precisely because by all accounts (including my daughter Claire who works in a prison) it is as close to reality as has ever been shown in a TV drama. When you see the darkness you make you want to double your efforts to create the conditions for light. The scene where a prisoner gets boiling water with sugar added thrown in their face for the mere suspicion that they may be an informer is harrowing, but it is the aggressive lower-key bullying and victimisation of the main character himself that made me react most. The strong victimising the weak reveals the most

dramatic and fundamental difference between a theistic and non-theistic way of understanding our fellow man. A person has an innate worth and dignity because we are made in the image of God. True, that image can be obscured even seemingly crushed in some people but never completely obliterated. It made me long for simple politeness, courtesy and manners. Sounds a bit lame perhaps, but such things are what makes life bearable and oils the wheels of society. Take those simple things away and life can become unbearable very quickly.

The Prayer for Today was written by Sheila Cassidy.

**Lord of the universe
Look in love upon your people
Pour the healing oil of your compassion
On a world that is wounded and dying.
Send us out in search of the lost,
To comfort the afflicted,
To bind up the broken,
And to free those trapped
Under the rubble of their fallen dreams.**

Love and peace,
Martin

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