

Dear friends,

**I have** recorded a reflection on the readings for Advent Sunday. If you'd like to watch it just click on this link. [https://youtu.be/-UQ1MmUs\\_S0](https://youtu.be/-UQ1MmUs_S0)

**As ever**, if you'd prefer to read it, I have that version on my Blog and you can access that by clicking on this link. <https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2020/11/advent-sunday.html>



**And Our Filmed** Advent Service has been completed and will be available to watch **from 10am** on Sunday which is of course Advent Sunday. To watch it from then you will need to just click on this link <https://youtu.be/n-KStN564UQ>

You can also access it via our website homepage! <https://www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/>

## Church re-start from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Despite the announcement that Devon is being placed in Tier 2 Covid-19 restrictions the following is still planned to happen

**From this** day we shall hopefully start again where we left off in October. I know it is Advent but missing Advent Sunday itself leaves only three weeks before Christmas day so logistically I decided the best thing to do was to continue using the shortened “Lockdown” service we were using in ordinary time, except of course we miss out the Gloria. In its place we can have the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath and of course the Advent Eucharistic prayer.

**I have** written a version of the liturgy that will take over from that from Christmas to Candlemas to be used in all churches and I will attach it to print off at home if you can nearer to Christmas, but copies will be distributed to the three churches.

**Wednesday** Holy Communion will resume on the 9<sup>th</sup> December at St. Peter’s and the Friday services will start sometime in the new year (as will evensong as previously announced.)

**Embarrassing** moment of the week! When I drew the winning ticket in the 100 club draw and I asked Fiona whose number it was and she said “Martin Jacques”



**Musical interlude!** For me, this song resonates with Advent because it talks of “a new day dawning they call the promised land.” It also resonates with me because my Dad has chosen it for his funeral. I’ve picked this song before of course when they were all young. Here they are on their farewell tour sounding exactly like they did in their prime. The “another you” could be anyone who is Christ for you on Life’s journey. Judith Durham and the Seekers sing there’ll never be another you. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBaO6ro1CUc>

**My favourite poem** of all time is “If” by Rudyard Kipling. Not just me of course – I think it was once voted Britain’s favourite poem – it is so pertinent describing a man (or woman of course) of true character formed in the cauldron of real life.

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don’t deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don’t give way to hating,  
And yet don’t look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you’ve spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build ’em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: ‘Hold on!’

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

Love and peace,  
Martin

Please note my new email address is [vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk)