

Dear friends,

On Saturday morning I learned from my sister that my father, Bernard, died peacefully in hospital in Wales that morning. As providence would have it, I had managed to speak to him only the day before. Bernard Jacques -2nd September 1931 – 2nd July 2022. Now reunited with mum.

At about the same time we learned that my nephew Kris had a serious accident in the Dartford tunnel and in hospital afterwards it was discovered that he has a large cyst on his brain which has to be operated on in the next few weeks.

But life goes on and later that same day I presided at the wedding between Clarrie and Charles at All Saints east Budleigh (the BCP proved to be no problem in the end!) where the entrance was suitably decorated as you can see here.



And on Sunday afternoon I baptised Vienna Blake into the church at St. Peter's....the cycle of life keeps turning....

Our garden party will be from **3pm on 23rd July** at the vicarage in East Budleigh. Please bring a bottle (it doesn't have to be alcoholic!) and something to sit on. If anyone can provide a plate of food it would be gratefully received. Please let Louise know on drlouisejacques@gmail.com or ring 443 473. Everyone is welcome at this RMC get-together!

Sunday 10th July – 4th after Trinity (Proper 10)

I will be presiding at both services in the morning at St. Peter's and at choral evensong at 6.30pm. Reverend Colin Randall will preside at All Saints at 9.30am and St. Michael's at 11am.

Deuteronomy 30: 9-14. Prospering if they keep the commandments of God must be seen in the context that the writers of Deuteronomy believed that the disasters that had befallen the Jewish people were a direct result on their collective disobedience to God's word. And God's word is not remote and inaccessible it is living, active and very near.

Colossians 1: 1-14. Jesus said that his disciples would be known by the fruit that would be shown forth in their lives. And in this beautiful piece of writing, Paul prays that the faith of the Colossians is the building block that the whole community bears fruit worthy of Jesus.

Luke 10: 25-37. A lawyer correctly encapsulates the whole of the law in the "Love God and love your neighbour" formula but then asks Jesus who actually is his neighbour. Then follows the well-known parable about the Good Samaritan. Our neighbours are not just determined by their physical proximity but by the quality of our relationship to them. The true neighbour of the man who had been

attacked was the person who had mercy on him – which was a foreigner – and not his ethnic and co-religious kith and kin.

At 7.30pm on Wednesday 20th July there is a Deanery Eucharist at St. John the evangelist in Withycombe, Exmouth (EX8 3AE) which is open to anyone in the Deanery that wishes to come. (Groups of churches in a local area are packaged together into local “deaneries”, the administrative level immediately above the local parish so it goes...the local parish, the Deanery, the archdeaconry, and then the Diocese.) Our Deanery is called Aylesbeare Deanery, and this year’s Eucharist will be presided over by our area Dean, Fr. Robert Sellars and the preacher is our old friend Archdeacon Trevor Jones.

Thought for the Day.

“If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two imposters both the same” is a line from my favourite poem “If” by Rudyard Kipling and boy, is it hard. It means having to see the world from God’s transcendent perspective where all the troubles, successes and failures of your life recede into insignificance the further removed you are from the situation. That line is dealing with personal character relating to how you react to our own efforts and strivings and not about our reaction to major traumas in our lives. That life is a continuum was brought home to me this weekend because in the same weekend that dad died, I baptised a baby and married a young couple. And Dad’s funeral is in one respect just another one on top of the four that I already have on the go. But all those others are one step removed from you personally so you can keep a professional distance. The personal significance of losing a parent or a wife or a child cannot be underestimated, and your mind is a whirl of half-forgotten memories, regrets, and thoughts about your own mortality. Knowing this situation happens to everybody eventually is a small comfort amidst the swirling sea of competing emotions. Amid that swirling sea, having an anchor in your life is what can provide comfort and peace through knowledge of a personal God who lived life and shared every human pain and suffering

and had that pain and eventual death transfigured and was raised in glory as a sign to all humanity that this is our future too is the message we preach to others while endeavouring to embrace it ourselves.

The prayer for Today is a prayer by Miriam Therese Winter for all who suffer loss.

O comforting one,

Compassionate one,

Be with us all

When we suffer loss

And ache with the pain of grieving.

Give us a glimpse

Of the way it will be

When love will never be taken away,

When life itself will not be diminished,

When all that we hold most precious

Will live and remain with us for ever.

Love and peace,

Martin