

Dear friends,

I have recorded a YouTube reflection on this Sunday's readings called "The sound of silence". You can access the recording by clicking here.

<https://youtu.be/QpccV70X4Vw>

Alternatively, if you'd prefer to read it you can do so on my Blog by clicking here. <https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2020/08/the-sound-of-silence.html>

Just to keep us up to date on the situation regarding face masks in church.

The congregation have to do so but the presiding minister, readers and intercessors don't have to. I was also pleased to read that brides and grooms are not expected to wear them at their weddings either. That's good for me because I'd sooner risk going to prison than trying to force a bride to walk down the aisle in a face mask!

The Beavers can stay!

In a landmark announcement by the home office on Thursday the colony of illegal immigrants on the river Otter known as "the Beavers" have been given permission to remain in this country after all. "It's a great relief" said Mr. Beaver. "We consider this country be our home now and I hope this paves the way for all beavers in this country to have their immigration status reviewed." Some local residents believed to be a certain Mr and Mrs Otter had expressed reservations, but the vast majority welcomed the decision. But seriously, we saw the TV van by Otterton Mill this morning after morning prayer in St. Michael's and was very pleased to see the TV report on the news that lunchtime that the experiment on re-introducing Beavers back into this country on the river Otter had been declared a success and that they can stay!

Incidentally, there are some lovely photos of the river Otter amongst many others on our new home page "rotator" on our website. <https://www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/>

If you have any other digital photos that you think we might consider for anywhere else on our website just let Lucinda have them on the normal website email address

Musical interlude!

This song is haunting and beautiful. It is "Harvest moon" by Neil Young. I have been aware of it for years without really noting who it was by and not knowing anything about Harvest moons. Apparently, it is the full moon nearest the autumn equinox (22/23 September). Quite by accident my delayed birthday present holiday to Louise starts then and the Harvest moon occurs near the end of our holiday and the haunting melody is of course all about love. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2MtEsrcTTs>

Since writing that we have been informed that the special holiday which was to mark Louise's 50th birthday has been cancelled yet again because of coronavirus restrictions, but this time, instead of re-booking, we are keeping the same dates and holidaying closer to home!

The Prayer for Today is by John Henry Newman

Lead kindly light, amid the encircling gloom,

Lead thou me on.

The night is dark, and I am far from home,

Lead thou me on.

Keep thou my feet, I do not ask to see

The distant scene, one step enough for me

Love and peace,

Martin

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