

Dear friends,

Remembrance Sunday was busy as I had to cover two services each in both East Budleigh and Budleigh Salterton (All saints in the morning and Budleigh Salterton in the afternoon). They all passed off in a very dignified and timely manner. The thing I noticed most is that the buglers (one on the cornet and one on the trumpet actually) were excellent. I am used to either having a recording (which was the case at Otterton) or hearing a very uncertain note sounded. Well done to Jack Ponting and to the lady who provided the trumpet both at the Budleigh war memorial and in St. Peter's church afterwards.

**Just a gentle reminder** that Choral Evensong is next Sunday 17th and the new Bishop of Exeter, Mike Harrison will preach

### **Sunday 17th November – 2nd before Advent**

Reverend Jean Burrows will preside at St. Peter's at both morning services while I will preside at All Saints and St. Michael's at 9.30am and 11am respectively. I will then return to St. Peter's to preside at Choral Evensong as usual.

**Daniel 12: 1-3.** The attribution of books to writers well before their time is a common practice, so although the book of Daniel was written in the second century BC the third year of King Cyrus was 536BC. This also contains the clearest statement of any kind of resurrection in the Hebrew scriptures. Michael is a reference to the belief that nations had individual angelic protectors and Michael protected Israel. But the overall theme is that God always has the final word on everything.

**Hebrews 10: 11-25.** Contrasting the eternal priesthood of Christ and his everlasting sacrifice with the priests carrying out daily animal sacrifices in the Temple has provided the Christian church with our theological model ever since. But Hebrews goes on to emphasize that the forgiveness acquired through his sacrifice does not license believers to moral indifference. The word "confidence" also means boldness and Christians are enjoined to act with boldness in this world and towards God.

**Mark 13: 1-8.** Chapter 13 of Mark is slightly different to the other chapters and provides the only lengthy piece of teaching in his gospel. Just as Jesus himself will achieve Glory but will have to go through great pain, suffering and death first – so it will be for the world – we will experience nothing different. Of course the Temple was indeed

destroyed by the Romans in around 70AD leaving only what the Jews call the Western wall (Wailing wall) which is the focus of Jewish hopes and prayers to this day.

**You will** be acutely aware of all the news reports about the C of E being in crisis having been rocked on several different fronts. It was bad enough that our king admitted in a private letter that he was dismayed by the woke agendas of all the churches except the Orthodox church and he keep Byzantine icons at home and seekd spiritual solace from Orthodox priests. That is one thing but the resignation of Justin Welby over the “cover up” of horrific sex abuse is quite another. Others resignations seem certain to follow. This morning I heard that someone has also called for all the “Lords spiritual” in the house of Lords to be removed effectively disestablishing us from the state. My own response will take a little time to work out so I’ll refrain from making any rash statements now but the consequences could be quite momentous.

### **Thought for the Day**

Well in the end it wasn’t even close. Donald Trump won by a landslide and from the point of view of the outsider, that one side or other won decisively must be a good thing. There is no doubt, it was clearcut, no judicial reviews of results, no scandals over vote rigging or room for anyone to cry “cheat”. Again, from the outside, we can only marvel at one of the greatest and momentous electoral results I can remember. From the Christian point of view Donald Trump won a large majority of Christians from both the evangelical and catholic sides of the faith and increased his vote in every racial demographic, especially amongst Latinos. Love him or loathe him, that is impressive. It seems to me that many of his supporters voted for him, not really liking him personally (holding their nose metaphorically) but truly despising the opposition much more than their dislike of him. Deriding the American working class as “deplorables” and “garbage” really came back to bite the American elite. There is a true gulf in the U.S. between city liberals and “Hollywood” and great swathes of the ordinary working people. I have never heard the word “class” and especially the phrase “working class” used so much in what was always described as being a classless society. But I worry too about a similar gulf in outlook and understanding between the hierarchy of the church and its everyday members. I have numerous examples of that which it is politic to keep quiet about for the moment. The differences are not so much about class but about political, cultural and social perspectives. I hope those differences don’t get any more serious or divisive. Of course, the difference is that we in the church are bound together by the person of Christ. Whatever our politics or perceived social standing we are all collectively the body of Christ and we are all intricately bound together by the one Spirit. That is true for the national church and also true in the Raleigh Mission Community.

**The Prayer for Today** is by John Wesley

**Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can.**

Love and peace,  
Martin