

Dear friends,

Today, which would have been a joint patronal festival service at St. Peter's, I talk about the significance of the great man for the whole church in a short YouTube reflection. You can access it by clicking on this link.

<https://youtu.be/xWO3KISR7Tg>

As usual if you prefer to read it you can do so on my

Blog. <https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2020/06/saint-peter.html>

## The Way Forward

So...Everything is shortly going to open up after 4<sup>th</sup> July but before I jump to any conclusions, we as clergy in our Deanery are all eagerly awaiting the "small print" from our Bishop to let us know exactly what we can and can't do. I have done a bit of work preparing for what may occur. In any case, for information, the agenda will be first of all to get worship up and running again which is our meat and drink and prime focus, and soon after that to reconvene oversight and governance first with a joint church warden's meeting and after that by a joint PCC meeting.

## Technophobes of the world unite!

You have nothing to lose but your temper. I got myself into all sorts of bother trying to record a commentary to accompany a power point presentation for a virtual "New parents school meeting" to be held by zoom soon by St. Peter's school. And that was before I tried to send it back to the school because the file was too large to send. I had to ask Louise in the end and via much confusion and via something called "One Drive" managed to get that done. I think I was born in the wrong era to understand all this stuff!

**Karen Young**, Myself and the Raleigh Mission community were prayed for in Exeter Cathedral yesterday at morning and evening prayer and also at Compline. Good to Know.

## My word of the week: Trilith.

In our continuing plan to get to know our environs a bit better we went for a lovely walk in the Blackdown hills from Culmstock. Despite muddy paths – mud and water coming over our boots and getting caught in showers it was beautiful but arriving back to base our guide book told us to look out for the "Trilith" in the trees with a poem attached to it. Well of course it is two standing stones with a stone across the top – a la Stonehenge (it seems so obvious now) but it was really lovely and spiritual as was the poem by Elizabeth Rapp, a poet and lay minister.

## Thought for the day

I normally steer well clear of politics nowadays but it must really rankle all the siren woke voices in this (by their reckoning) irredeemably and institutionally racist and discriminatory country of ours that three of the great offices of state are all held by people of South Asian heritage: Pritti Patel, Home secretary, Rishi Sunak, Chancellor (replacing Sajid Javid, son of a Pakistani bus driver) and Alok Sharma (born in Agra, India), secretary of state for business.

Both Rishi Sunak and Alok Sharma swore their parliamentary oaths on the Hindu Holy book the Bhagavad Gita. And what do Pritti Patel and Dominic Raab, the first secretary of state have in common? They are both the offspring of people who came to this country as refugees. Pritti Patel's parents were expelled from Uganda in the seventies and Dominic Raab's Father was a Jewish refugee who arrived here from Czechoslovakia in 1938.

Something else that needs a little explaining is why hundreds of thousands of immigrants are willing to risk their lives to get to this benighted little backwater of ours.

Might, just might (?) it be that actually we are an incredibly open and tolerant, largely peaceful society where people are free to practice any religion or none and where we strive for equality of education, opportunity, freedom of expression; and have an open and fair parliamentary democracy, a free and fair judiciary, a national health service and welfare system and we enjoy relative prosperity. (When you look at it that way, although not a strongly practicing Christian nation, the Christian ethos runs deep through the very fabric of society)

That is probably why people are willing to risk their lives to get here (ignoring all the European countries they have to travel through to get here) and why first and second-generation immigrants have risen to the very top of Government. Indeed, two women (another oppressed group!) have held the VERY top job.

Perhaps we just need to open our eyes, wake up, and smell the coffee!

**The lighter Side!** Thanks to Mike in Gainford for this one, Knowing Yorkshire quite well it really made me smile.

God has been spotted in Yorkshire.

Someone approached him and said,

"What are you doing here?"

God replied "I'm working from home "

**The Prayer for Today** is the collect for St. Peter

**Almighty God**

**Who inspired your Apostle St. Peter**

**To confess Jesus as Christ and son of the living God**

**Build up your church upon this rock,  
That in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth  
And follow one Lord, your son our saviour Christ,  
Who is alive and reigns with you  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God now and forever,  
Amen.**

Love and peace,  
Martin

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