

THIS AND THAT (390)

There's not enough hypocrisy about. Some people are so nasty it's their duty to pretend to be otherwise.

The appearance of things

There's hypocrisy and hypocrisy, of course. My hero, Jesus of Nazareth, vehemently and correctly inveighed against pharisaical hypocrisy, but John le Carré puts forward a good and philosophically acute case for the "sin":

I am a hypocrite. I am a great believer in hypocrisy. It is the nearest we ever get to virtue. It is a statement of what we ought to be. Like religion, like art, like the law, like marriage, I serve the appearance of things.

A parish priest needs to be something of a hypocrite. Not infrequently pastoral sensitivity and politeness demand an attentive and sympathetic response to unattractive and unacceptable views. Instead of shouting "Rubbish" it has to be "Yes, yes, but...." or even a cowardly, non-judgemental and therefore hypocritical silence. Samuel Butler (1835-1902) penned a salty little verse on hypocrisy:

Hypocrisy

Hypocrisy will serve as well
To propagate a church, as zeal;
As persecution and promotion
Do equally advance devotion:
So round white stones will serve, they say,
As well as eggs to make hens lay.

Crumpet

Empathy with our ageing little tin of dried yeast, used in breadmaking, persuaded me that it was world-weary and tired. To be bubble, fizz and effervescence to all you come in contact with is enervating. Our yeast needed using up and replacing with a new tin. So I looked back to Tristan da Cunha and my mother's triumphs and tribulations with ageing yeast there in the nineteen fifties and decided to make some crumpets. My resourceful father her some rings from cut-down pineapple chunk tins. I ordered a set from Amazon and found a recipe online.

Just yeast, flour, milk, water, salt, a teaspoon of sugar, that's all. How easy. How basic. How unutterably delicious when slathered and smothered with melting butter.

What happens to us after death

Most of us wonder what happens to our personality, and essential self when we die. There's no way of knowing. That's why we wonder. My own conclusion, such as it is, is that we fall into the abyss of non-existence but, being Christian and with Jesus' resurrection in mind, trust that a Creator who called a universe into being, from just such an abyss, might well do the same for us in a new creation. To get to know the Creator, through his Christ and by living his Gospel of love, brings with it a confidence that whatever ensues will be for the best. For poignancy, longing and love and a perfectly judged last line (though not for any literal truth whatsoever) it's hard to beat Charles Causley's:

EDEN ROCK

They are waiting for me somewhere beyond Eden Rock:

My father, twenty-five, in the same suit
Of Genuine Irish Tweed, his terrier Jack
Still two years old and trembling at his feet.

My mother, twenty-three, in a sprigged dress
Drawn at the waist, ribbon in her straw hat,
Has spread the stiff white cloth over the grass.
Her hair, the colour of wheat, takes on the light.

She pours tea from a Thermos, the milk straight
From an old H.P. sauce-bottle, a screw
Of paper for a cork; slowly sets out
The same three plates, the tin cups painted blue.

The sky whitens as if lit by three suns.
My mother shades her eyes and looks my way
Over the drifted stream. My father spins
A stone along the water. Leisurely,

They beckon to me from the other bank.
I hear them call, 'See where the stream-path is!
Crossing is not as hard as you might think.'

I had not thought that it would be like this.

These weekly articles are at: <http://www.andrewneum.com/>

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TODAY: LENT THREE 7 MARCH 2021

St Nicholas' Chapel Pilley: 8.00am Holy Communion BCP

St John's Boldre: 10.30am Morning Prayer

For Prayer This Week

World peace and cooperation. Our Prime Minister and advisors. The medical profession and NHS. Scientists. The unemployed, lonely and anxious.

Prayer Requests: Robin Clabburn, Rebecca Coetzee, Joan Downer, Colin Erne, Joy Flanders, Michael Hambidge, Harold Hendey, Tony Partington, Kate, Joanna.

Rest in Peace: James Venner, Mark Eygurin, Colin Taylor, .

Forthcoming Weekday Activities

Wed 10 Mar - 10.30am St Nicholas' Chapel, Holy Communion

Wed 10 Mar - Bible Study Ph 07786 194282 for venue or zoom

Fri 12 Mar - 10.30am St John's Interment of Ashes

Sun 14 Mar - 10.30am Mothering Sunday and posies

NEXT WEEK: MOTHERING SUNDAY 14 MARCH 2021

St Nicholas' Chapel Pilley: 8.00am Holy Communion BCP

St John's Boldre: 10.30am Morning Prayer

ST JOHN'S & ST NICHOLAS' REMAIN OPEN

Services at St John's and St Nicholas' remain at the usual times. St John's is open during the day for peace, quiet, contemplation and prayer. At services safety precautions are carefully observed. Adequate ventilation means it can be cold. WRAP WARMLY!

PLEASE KEEP YOUR MASK ON

One of the reasons St John's has remained open when so many other churches have not is because we have been very careful and disciplined about distancing, hand sanitising and masking. People profess to feeling as safe at Church as at home. So do please keep your masks on during the services except if you are a reader or officiating. Its all about loving your neighbour.

EASTER LILIES

To give an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, please contact Elaine Fenning 01590 676496 (£3.50 per lily), or the Vicarage. The names of those remembered will be displayed.

OUR LENT APPEAL FOR RWANDA

We at Boldre, for our Lent Appeal are supporting Byumba - its new school classrooms and the Hannah Ministry. Sally keeps us informed as to what goes on there, and is in frequent touch with the Bishop. Rwanda, like Britain, has been devastated by Covid, and our donations, thanks to the exchange rate, go a long way. Attached to the email version of this pew-sheet last week was a letter, inviting donations as part of our Lenten discipline.

MARCH EDITION OF THE BRIDGE AVAILABLE

The March edition of The Bridge is available online now.

Click on the Benefice website: <http://www.bsbb.org.uk/>

KEFIR AVAILABLE

Diana's Kefir culture is burgeoning. If anyone would like some simply ask. It is remarkable stuff, a sort of fermented milk drink similar to a thin yogurt made from kefir grains, which are a specific type of "mesophilic symbiotic culture". The drink originated in the North Caucasus and was originally made in goatskin bags hung by the doorway to be knocked by passers by to keep the milk and kefir grains well mixed. The Vicarage variety is rather less roughly treated.

PCC MEETING

We had hoped the PCC meeting this month would be a face to face one - and in a pub garden! Not to be though. As I have given up alcohol for Lent I don't regret the pub all that much but face to face in preference to Zoom would have been wonderful. So the meeting will take place in our respective homes starting at 5.00pm on Monday 15