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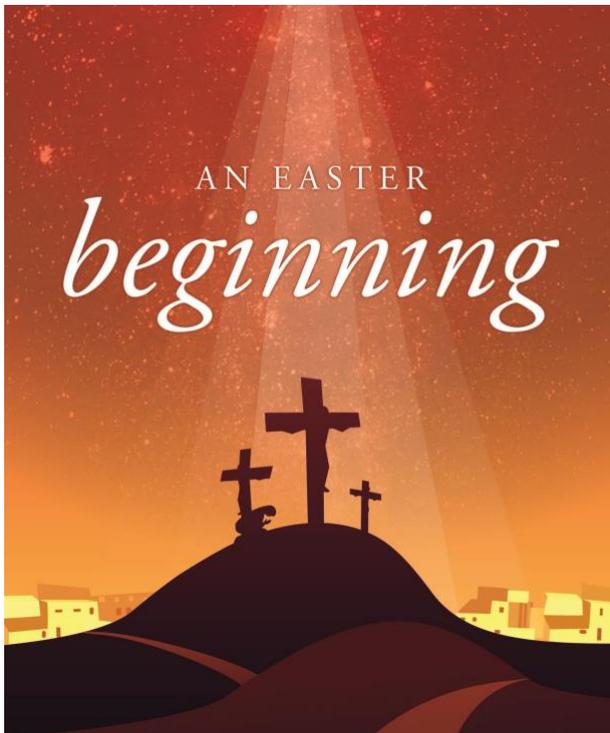


April 2020

FREE: Please take a copy

**The monthly magazine of the Emmanuel
Benefice of Newsome and Armitage
Bridge and South Crosland, Huddersfield**

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds



Clergy Musings – April 2020

I hope that you are all having a good Lent and in some way managing to follow Jesus on his Journey into the wilderness, resisting the temptations of the devil (or chocolate).

Do you, like me, from time to time, experience singing a hymn without really paying too much attention to the words.

Well during the Sunday service last week we sang the hymn “There’s a wideness in God’s mercy...” and suddenly the truth of the words really came home to me.

I have long been of the view that although we are told that we are made in God’s image, we all too often make God in our image.

Perhaps that’s inevitable as we can only think in human terms.

But the effect of this is to severely limit God and this hymn attempts to remind us of this and hopefully help us to re-imagine God in more infinite terms.

I don’t propose to look at every line in the hymn, you can do that yourself (perhaps as part of your lent observance) but here are a few observations for you to consider.

***V 3. For the love of God is broader
than the measure of man’s mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind***

The first two lines of this verse tell us quite specifically that we cannot imagine the love of God because it is beyond our understanding.

So if I think of the love I have for those I love the most, and believe that God loves me much more than that, I perhaps gain a misty insight into God's love.

And if I think of the kindest act I have ever performed or received and multiply that by, say 100, am I getting close to the kindness of God's heart?

**V 4 *But we make His love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify His strictness
with a zeal He will not own***

We've already mentioned how we limit God's love but the last two lines really act as a warning to those who would see God as making demands or setting rules. God IS LOVE and love doesn't make demands or establish limitations.

In the first two lines of verse 6 we are told that God's grace is without limit and there is enough to fill the universe. And the last two lines seem to encourage us to continue to add to scripture and not be constrained by it. Our experiences of God are as valid today as they were in biblical times.

The last verse sums it all up in very simple terms.

**V6 *If our love were but more simple
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord***

In his book "What's so Amazing about Grace", Philip Yancey says this

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“there is nothing we can do to make God love us more, and there is nothing we can do to make him love us less”

I find this one of the most profound statements about the love of God and actually believing it and holding it in my heart is probably the ultimate goal of my spiritual journey.

I hope and pray that you are having a spiritual Lent and that you have a joyful and blessed Easter

With much peace and love

David

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~~**Crafty Kids - Saturday 4th April
10.00 - 11.30am**~~

Holy Trinity Church South Crosland

CANCELLED!!

Due to coronavirus there is currently no worship

and meetings in Church of England Churches.

When the general situation improves,

please log in to www.theemanuelteam

to establish when this group resumes.

Saving Your Change

APRIL 2020

A large empty bottle is kept at Holy Trinity for us to collect our loose change in. Every so often, when it is full, Keith Greenhalgh empties it and tots up how much we've collected.

So this is from Keith:

The Change for Church bottle has been emptied & counted, a record amount of £180.50 has been banked, the odd coins were returned to the bottle to start off the next collection.



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The Women's Society

The Annual General Meeting was held on 25th February. The meeting opened with the Lord's Prayer led by Stella Bowman. There were no changes in the Committee. Minutes of last year's meeting were read, approved and signed.

It was agreed that our charity giving for the year will be £100 to Diabetes UK and £100 to Shelter.

The next meeting would have been Stations of the Cross, now cancelled.

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Words of encouragement

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

Kitty O'Meara (via Soul Alchemy)



Christian Solidarity Worldwide has the strap-line “everyone free to believe” and one of its major concerns is that all children have an unbiased and open education. To that end it has launched a “FAITH and a FUTURE campaign”. Here are some points for prayer from their April Prayer Diary:

Across the world, countless children experience abuse and discrimination at school because of their faith - some are even forced out of education. That’s why we launched the Faith and a Future campaign, to ensure every child can have both faith and a future. Read more . . .

Give thanks to God that six-year-old Kevin from Mexico is back in school! His dream is to be a doctor, but his education was interrupted when he and other members of his faith community were driven from their homes. Hundreds of members of C S W joined our campaign for Kevin, and he returned to school last September.

Children across Pakistan are learning from textbooks that distort history and encourage discrimination against religious minorities. After we presented a petition signed by over 5000 C S W supporters to the UK government, officials promised to re-examine their position to ensure that UK aid is not used to fund biased textbooks. That is a positive move at least.

16-year-old Leah Sharibu was one of 110 girls abducted from their school in Nigeria by terrorists in 2018. The next month, following government negotiations, the surviving girls were taken home.

Leah, however, wasn't released because she refused to convert. Pray for comfort and strength for Leah's parents, Nathan and Rebecca, and brother Donald; and that she will soon be released.

Quanquan is just 6, but the Chinese authorities are punishing him for who his father is. Wang Quanzhang is a human rights lawyer in prison on charges of 'subversion of state power', and now his son has been prevented from going to school. Pray that Quanquan will be able to resume his education.

Lord of all, we thank you for Kevin's return to school. Truly you are an unstoppable God, and we pray in faith that you will continue to work miracles in the lives of every child we are lifting to you this week. In Jesus' name. Amen

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My cunning plan by Nicola Chambers

Myself and Georgina are very keen to try and ensure that the Welcome Centre still receives our food/toiletry donations whilst we are not at Church.

We have started our own little collection (very proud I have secured 3 bags of pasta!!) and George is rallying the troops at Sainsbury's in Lindley.

Margaret and Allen - you do a magnificent job in taking the donations down and I don't want to tread on your toes at all - but if anyone wants to donate I am very happy to come and collect from you (a quick handover on the doorstep to minimise contact) and take the stuff down. We are hoping to collect enough to go down weekly or fortnightly. I am currently working from home for the foreseeable so can go down on my lunch hour or send Georgina.

Just get in touch if you want to help - and spread the word.

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WhatsApp



There have been lots of other ideas about how to keep in touch with one another and one of them is to set up a WhatsApp group so that folk can talk to one another and offer prayer and support. If you would like to be part of our WhatsApp group which will be called Agape which means love then please let me have your mobile number so that I can add you to the group.

Julie

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Easter lilies

In the light of recent government guidelines and advice we will now not be holding our usual Easter Services and so our display of Easter lilies won't happen. I will, however, make sure we have a service of remembering once all this is over and we will buy whatever flower is in season and dedicate them to our loved ones. If you have requested a lily and would prefer to have your money back please let me know.

Thanks

Julie

Is God calling you!!

The church annual general meetings for our churches and our PCC meetings have now been postponed and the Archbishops have given us until end of October to hold them. Once we are back to normality we will look at new dates and publish them accordingly. Meanwhile please pray for the churchwardens and all those who hold office in church as they work together to make sure everyone is kept safe



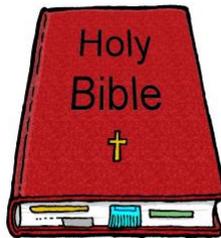
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Public meeting at Newsome

There was to be a public meeting at St John's Newsome on 2nd April but due to the Coronavirus this has now been postponed and a new date will be arranged when things return to normal!

Thanks

Julie



Daily readings and prayers

Palm Sunday

Psalm 118. 19-24, Matthew 21.1-11

Prayer for the Day (Collect)

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.

Monday 6th Psalm 41, Lamentations 1.1-12a, Luke 22.1-23

Lord Jesus, as we journey through this week with you may we come to understand more fully the transforming power of your love and to grow more in your likeness.

Tuesday 7th Psalm 27, Lamentations 3.1-18, Luke 22.24-53 (or 39-53)

Lord Jesus, unfold to us the true nature of discipleship – what it means to love and follow you – and help us, by your grace, to respond.

Wednesday 8th Psalm 102, Jeremiah 11.18-20, Luke 22.54-71

Lord Jesus, grant us grace to resist temptation, and to walk in your way, now and forever.

Thursday 9th *Maundy Thursday*

Psalm 42, Leviticus 16.2-24, Luke 23.1-25

Forgive our presumption, Lord to sit and eat with you, knowing the evil at work in our hearts, forgive our hesitation, Lord, to approach your presence, knowing the lengths to which you have gone to win this place for us.

Friday 10th *Good Friday*

Psalm 69, Genesis 22.1-18, part of John 18 – 19

Lord Jesus, we give you thanks and praise for you endured the horror of the nails, piercing your hands and feet, the crown of thorns adorning your head, and you bore the beating and mocking to our shame. May your wounds bring true healing as you gather in your suffering?

Saturday 11th *Easter Eve*

Psalm 142, Hosea 6.1-6, John 2.18-22

In the silence of the grave, Lord Jesus, you restore our life. In the darkness of death, you bring light to our grief. In the destruction of the body, you heal our brokenness. In the dawning of the new day, you shake the earth with a power no tomb can hold.

Easter Day – Sunday 12th

Acts 10.34-43, John 20.1-18

Prayers for the Day (Collect)

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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Monday 13th Psalm 111, Exodus 12.1-14, 1 Corinthians 15.1-11

Risen Lord Jesus, in bursting from the tomb you have broken the power of death and we see there is no darkness that can overcome your love.

Tuesday 14th Psalm 112, Exodus 12.14-36, 1 Corinthians 15.12-19

Lord Jesus, we praise you that we can worship you not simply as the crucified Christ but as our Risen Lord and Saviour.

Wednesday 15th Psalm 113, Exodus 12.37-end, 1 Corinthians 15.20-28

Lord Jesus, we praise you that death was not the end but a new beginning, not simply for you but for us!

Thursday 16th Psalm 114, Exodus 13.1-16, 1 Corinthians 15.29-34

Lord Jesus, we praise you for this time of joy, thanksgiving and rejoicing, a time that speaks of victory, renewal and hope.

Friday 17th Psalm 115, Exodus 13.17-14.14, 1 Corinthians 15.35-50

Lord Jesus, we praise you for the great message of Easter that has spoken to countless people across the years and that continues to speak to us today, receive our joyful and grateful worship.

Saturday 18th Psalm 116, Exodus 14.15-end, 1 Corinthians 15.51-end

Lord Jesus, come among us now, in your risen power, and send us out to proclaim your name and live to your glory.

Second Sunday of Easter – Sunday 19th

Acts 2.104a&22-32, John 20.19-end

Prayers for the Day (Collect)

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

Monday 20th Psalm 2, Exodus 15.1-21, Colossians 1.1-14

Lord, you have taught us in your word that there is a time to speak and a time to keep silence.

Tuesday 21st Psalm 8, Exodus 15.22-16.10, Colossians 1.15-end

Lord, as we thank you for the power of speech, we pray for the grace of silence.

Wednesday 22nd Psalm 16, Exodus 16.11-end, Colossians 2.1-15

Lord, make us ready to listen as we are to talk, ready to listen to your voice in the quietness of our hearts and ready to listen to other people who need a sympathetic ear.

Thursday 23rd *St George Patron of England*

Psalm 5, Joshua 1.1-9, Ephesians 6.10-20

Lord, show us when to open our mouths and when to hold our peace that we may glorify you both in speech and in the silence.

Friday 24th Psalm 57, Exodus 18.1-12, Colossians 3.12-4.1

Lord, Scripture says 'there is a time for silence and a time for speech.' Teach us the silence of humanity, the silence of wisdom, the silence of love, the silence of perfection, the silence that speaks without words, the silence of faith.

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Saturday 25th *Mark the Evangelist*

Psalm 37.23-41, Isaiah 62.6-10, Acts 12.25 – 13.13

Lord, teach us to silence our own hearts that we may listen to the gentle movement of the Holy Spirit within us and sense the depths which are sent from you.

Third Sunday of Easter – Sunday 26th

Acts 2.14a & 36-41, Luke 24.13-35

Prayers of for the Day (Collect)

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Monday 27th Psalm 96, Exodus 19, Luke 1.1-25

Lord, we thank you for the richness of your creation: for the enormity of our universe; so utterly vast that it takes our breath away – our minds simply cannot take it in.

Tuesday 28th Psalm 98, Exodus 20.1-21, Luke 1.26-38

Lord, we thank you for the smallest creature, perfect in detail, incredibly made, we acknowledge that you have not only made the world, but you have created us.

Wednesday 29th Psalm 105, Exodus 24, Luke 1.39-56

Lord, we thank you for giving us the ability to think, to plan and to choose. We can remember who we are and consider what we shall be.

Thursday 30th Psalm 136, Exodus 25.1-22, Luke 1.57-end

Lord, we thank you that we can enjoy each other's friendship and that we can put our trust firmly in you.

Friday 1st Philip and James, *Apostles*

Psalm 139, Proverbs 4.10-18, James 1.1-12

Lord, we thank you for your gifts of hope, joy, love and faith, but most of all we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ, and that through his life, death and resurrection you have made it possible for us to know you in a whole new way.

Saturday 2nd Psalm 108, Exodus 29.1-9, Luke 2.21-40

Lord, we thank you that through the Holy Spirit you are constantly making our lives new.

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This magazine may be read in full colour on our webpage!

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