

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

16th May 2020

Peter Clark



Picture of the week. Oh help!!

As many of you know Art is not something that I am in tune with and a trip to Tate Modern or even the National Gallery would not be on my wish list.

A quote from a character in the programme Medici sums me up well “*some find pleasure in a fine painting. I find pleasure in a quill pen*”

But art has many forms and my hobby of woodturning is one of them but unfortunately that did not inspire an article for the web site.

As part of my lockdown therapy I had threatened to sort the photographs in cd' s and computer so it is to photographs I turned.

10 years ago, some of us at AFC went to Oberammergau and although my photo is one taken of the brochure it inspired me to think. The passion play is extremely poignant and very much in keeping with our situation we find ourselves in with Covid 19



I will share the official notes and I am sure it will resonate with today

In 1633, the residents of Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany, vowed that if God spared them from the bubonic plague ravaging the region, they would produce a play thereafter for all time every 10 years depicting the life and death of Jesus. The death rate among adults had risen from one person per 1000 per year in October 1632 to twenty in the month of March 1633.

After their vow, the adult death rate slowly subsided to one in the month of July 1633. The villagers believed they had been spared and thus kept their part of the vow when the play was first performed in 1634.

The play is now performed repeatedly over the course of five months during every year ending in zero. The production involves over 2,000 performers, musicians and stage technicians, all residents of the village. The play comprises spoken dramatic text, musical and choral accompaniment

102 performances took place from 15 May until 3 October 2010 when we at AFC went and is next was scheduled for 2020

For the first time though due to Covid the play is being postponed to 2022

Then trawling through more photographs, I came across one taken in New Zealand at the church of the Holy Shepherd at Lake Tekapo which I had captioned

“A wonderful stained-glass window. By a well-known artist”



I believe the artist created this magnificent panorama in 7 days

He is an expert in colour, light, and texture although some of his works take thousands of years to evolve to their full magnificence.

Let us all, when we eventually exit from this crisis ,make sure that we remember to regularly (more often than every 10 years though) give thanks to God and may we learn to be more appreciative of the wonderful colours and beauty he gives us through the gift of his natural world

May God hold you all in the palm of his hand

Peter Clark