



St Peter's Parish

e-newsletter

10th June 2020

www.stpeterrealing.org.uk

The Vicar's Letter Fruits of the Spirit – kindness (Galatians 5.22-23)

Kindness seems such a nothing word; be kind, kindness. What does it mean? We value kindness but it lacks a certain, for want of a better word, tangibility. It's also something that makes you vulnerable. A long while ago, as I was leaving John Lewis in Oxford Street, a young woman was coming towards the door to enter the shop. Out of kindness I took the handle of the door and held the door open. As she walked through she said nothing. Then, as I watched her enter, she said, "what do you want? Thanking?" and walked on.

We might see kindness as that doing something for someone else, that offering of time or energy to support or help. Yet there is something about kindness that has to include vulnerability. For kindness is an anti-substantial characteristic. It is in its seemingly empty or insubstantial status that it has strength. Take the reflection Jesus built around the rich giving to the temple and the offering of the widow's pennies. As the rich gave to the temple, vast sums in comparison to the ordinary person let alone the widow we will come to in a moment so they didn't give out of their vulnerability and their giving didn't lead them into vulnerability. There was no kindness in their offering. We might say there was generosity, of a kind, but they could afford it. Their giving was not sacrificial, just generous. Generosity is ok, if the heart of the giving is in the right place. But this is not kindness. The widow's gift of a few pennies was ultimate kindness. It came from vulnerability, the vulnerability of poverty and added to her vulnerability, it was all that she had. We do not know if that is literal, or meant it was all she had at that moment. Either way her kindness made or added to her vulnerability.

Like many things in the life of faith, kindness costs. When something costs we can not assume there will be reparation. In following Christ we walk forward into all sorts of stuff and situations that require a particularly Christian response from us. Kindness is a characteristic of the Christian faith which puts us out there and we can expect nothing back, for in our act of kindness we are witnessing to the love of God in our own lives. That woman at the door of John Lewis was quite right. Was I holding the door open to be thanked? If so it was not an act of kindness, more self-aggrandisement. An act of kindness coming from our faith must bear fruit for Christ. That fruit is a revelation of his love revealed to the world in the cross and the empty tomb. If anything else comes out of our action, it can't then be kindness, at least not in this sense, as a fruit of the spirit. It is an easy one to trip over, watch out how you fall.

Fr David

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Church Opening ~ Can You Help?

You will have heard much in the press about places of worship opening for private prayer. This is allowed from Monday 15th June and we would like to do this. There is a snag. We cannot open St Peter's as we used to. The hidden word in all the guidance for opening places of worship is 'supervised'. For Church to be opened we need a team of volunteers who are willing to give up a few hours a week or so to sit in church and supervise its opening. This is to ensure health and hygiene regulations are followed.

We know we will not be able to cover every hour, St Peters will not be open 8am – 6pm seven days a week but we would like to open as much as possible.

If you can give up an hour or two each week to supervise church opening please let Fr David know. Ideally we would have two people on at any time, socially distanced of course.

There will also be instructions on how to do it (they will not be onerous), help and guidance. Can you help?

Five 30min Sessions on the Holy Eucharist

with tea or coffee and pictures Online @ 5.30pm led by Fr Adam

- 1st Session - 7 May Origin of the Eucharist (The Bible and the Church Fathers)
- 2nd Session - 14 May Introductory Rites (Forming a community to worship)
- 3rd Session - 21 May Liturgy of the Word (God speaks to us through Scripture)
- 4th Session - 4 June (NB: No meeting on the 28th as previously advertised) Liturgy of the Eucharist (The memorial of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection)
- 5th Session - 11 June Concluding Rites (Christian missiology)

Stewardship and Giving



In his letter to the Romans (12.1-2) Paul encapsulates the effects of giving our lives to Jesus. “I appeal to you brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Paul is telling us that to follow Christ means to be transformed, in the language of certain circles, to be born again.

We live in this world in human form and under human laws with human attitudes and attributes. It is as it is. When we give our lives to Jesus all that changes. We are encouraged through the Holy Spirit to become more than we are, to strive to be Christ-like. A large part of that becoming Christ-like is the stewardship of our lives and all that that means. Stewardship of our time, talents and finances to the glory of God, a stewardship that strives to draw us closer to God. Paul tells us not to be conformed to the ways of this world, not so that we can exclude the world but that we can firstly change our lives to be centred on God and God's ways not the ways of the world and secondly, to encourage the world to change too for the better. The change begins here, with ourselves. This is how we become a living sacrifice, giving over our old lives centred upon our own needs and desires and giving in to the life of Jesus where our whole view is

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centred on God and how God wants us to live, to re-evaluate our lives and renew ourselves in the power and wonder of God's love. All this works itself out in how we then use our time, talents and finances to the glory of God – how we stop squandering our time on useless stuff, how we better use our talents to God's glory and the building up of God's kingdom by living in and sharing his love. To give generously of our finances to the welfare and wellbeing of our family, our friends and our community. And giving all this in generosity and love.

Fr David

Bank: HSBC

Account Name: Parochial Church Council of St Peters Ealing Parish

Account Number: 60377082

Sort Code: 40 11 58

WLL Community Shopping Service.



As time goes on and we become clearer of the more permanent place COVID19 seems to be having in society it is quite possible this service will be needed for a while longer. As Government plans for virus tracking and localised isolation are uncovered so flexible and serviceable systems for support in the community are going to be needed. That means being prepared to be available and not always being needed. We are then going to continue to need volunteers to support the

community with shopping, a chat on the phone or the collection of prescriptions. We are working out what this might mean. Until that is sorted Margaret Joachim is co-ordinating this shopping service. We could do with your help. If you would like to help, if you know someone who could do with some help or indeed if you yourself need help then get in touch. The phone number to use is 07595 911178.

Please also note the new Ealing Borough website: <https://ealingtogether.org/> Loads of information help and advice is there.

Finding Your Way Round Your Bible: Gospels 1

In my Bible in front of me now, the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, is followed by a title page which reads as follows: "The Covenant commonly called the New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." This serves to remind us that division of our Bible into two "Testaments" is the Christian understanding of what the Bible holds and means.

The Old Testament is not of course what Jewish readers call the 39 books that make up this part of our Bibles. Indeed, if I go back to the title page before Genesis in mine I read: "The Hebrew Scriptures commonly called the Old Testament."

Our Bibles are formed with one over-riding understanding: that God intervened in human history to reveal Himself and his purpose for humankind in Jesus. The Old Testament foreshadows this revelation and incarnation, but in Jesus the Law and the Prophets are superseded. The New Testament "new covenant" or promised relationship with God relies not upon adherence to rules, but upon redemption and grace.

This is put very simply here (Old and New Testament scholars would find lots to add and question!), but for us approaching the Gospels today it is worth keeping two things firmly in mind:

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- Based on their reading and understanding of the Hebrew Scriptures, the people of 1st Century AD Palestine were waiting for God to intervene and show himself, as a new Elijah, a new David, as the Messiah.
- The books of the Old Testament were written over (at least) a period of a thousand years. The books of the New Testament were all written in the second half of the 1st Century AD. The books were written by men who had either known Jesus or had heard the accounts of those who had known him.

Gospel is an English word means “Good News”. The four Gospel writers are all sharing the Good News that Jesus brought to the world. The shared aim of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John was to set down the world-changing message of Jesus’ ministry, death and resurrection. They did this by collecting and shaping the memories, teaching and sayings of Jesus into narratives that both told his story and the meaning of his story for all people.

The authorship of each of the Gospels is contested, but if taken at face value –and what was traditionally accepted until the 19th Century – then:

Matthew = Jewish, Disciple, tax collector (see Matthew 9 verse 9) called Levi in the other Gospels.

Mark= Jewish, a follower of Peter, from whom much of the first-hand material comes.

Luke = Greek, a follower of Paul, traditionally described as a physician, suggested also that some of his material comes from Mary, Jesus’s mother.

John = Jewish, “Beloved Disciple” (see John 19 v 26 and 20 vv 2 and 8 among other verses), fisherman.

Today we are going to look at the first three: Matthew, Mark and Luke often called the SYNOPTIC GOSPELS – from the Greek for “seeing the same”. That is, there is a shared general approach and vision as well as shared material in these accounts.

It is generally agreed that Mark’s Gospel was probably the first written and that Matthew and Luke use his material for their own Gospels.

As with all Bible commentary and criticism, and especially for such key texts as the Gospels, all this has been widely challenged. If you read about the authorship of the Gospels you will quickly find yourself knee-deep in German scholarship and the Q material (standing for “Quelle”, the German for source or spring). This is the theory that there is a source of material - Q -that Matthew and Luke use, that is completely separate to Mark. Although a prevalent argument no actual Q collection has ever been found.

With that out of the way, let’s look at these three Gospels and their “way of seeing”.

A good way to start is to read the first chapter of each and to see what we notice:

- Matthew 1 (25 verses): Genealogy and message to Joseph in a dream that Mary will have God’s son.
- Mark 1 (45 verses): Quotation from Isaiah, ministry of John the Baptist, baptism and temptation of Jesus, calling the first disciples, Jesus preaching and healing.
- Luke 1 (80 verses): Dedication to Theophilus (Greek for “Lover of God”), outlining the authority of Luke’s account, birth of John the Baptist foretold, birth of Jesus

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foretold, Mary visits Elizabeth, Mary praises God (Magnificat), birth of John the Baptist, Zechariah's Prophecy (Benedictus).

A few insights might emerge from this reading:

Matthew is keen to establish Jesus provenance, and to build on Joseph's ancestry as a descendant of King David, he begins at what he considers the beginning "Jesus the Messiah, *the son of David, the son of Abraham.*"

Mark is keen to cut to the chase and to establish John the Baptist as a fulfilment of prophecy. Jesus hits the road running, we might say, and there is no interest in his ancestry or birth, we go straight into his adult ministry beginning with his baptism by John. "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, *the Son of God.*"

Luke is keen to establish the authority and reliability of his sources so that we can be assured that what he is telling us is true. He is very interested in the promise and birth of John the Baptist, and his focus is on Mary's encounter and response to an angel (contrast Matthew's interest in Joseph).

Each of these writers assembles broadly shared material to both tell what happened and what it meant – and means. The choices of how to do this give the Gospels their distinctive voices. The small selection of suggested reading below gives a sense of these voices, and some of the material that is specific to the individual Gospel. For all of them I have included their Passion narratives, as this is a good way of looking at their different handling of the same material.

Matthew

- Chapter 2: Early childhood of Jesus
- Chapters 5 – 7: "The Sermon on the Mount" esp 5 verses 1 -16 "The Beatitudes" (Matthew put Jesus's teaching into blocks, while it is more spread throughout the narrative in Mark and Luke.)
- Chapter 26 verse 17 – 28 verse 15: From Passover to Easter Day

Mark

Over 90% of Mark is included in Matthew, and about 50% is included in Luke, so there are only very few unique passages in Mark's Gospel.

The overall effect of the Gospel is of urgency and speed but there are occasional details that suggest a close "eye-witness" recollection. For example:

- Chapter 3 verse 17: James and John being given the name "Boanerges", meaning "sons of Thunder"
- Chapter 4 verse 38: Jesus being asleep on a cushion during storm
- Chapter 10 verse 14: Jesus being indignant when disciples sent children away
- Chapter 14 verses 51 -52 The naked young man running away (is this Mark himself?)
- Chapter 14 verse 12 – Chapter 16 verse 20: From the Passover to Easter Day

Luke

Luke has the majority of the material concerning Jesus birth and contains the only account of him as a boy. The emphasis of Luke reflects the "storyteller" aspect both of Jesus ministry and the Gospel writer. Some of the most tender-hearted passages in the Gospels occur in Luke.

- Chapter 2 verses 39 -52: Return to Nazareth and Jesus being found in temple

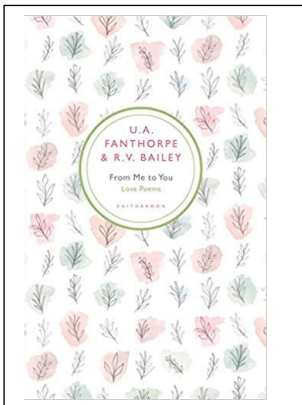
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- Chapter 3 verses 23 -38 Genealogy traced from Adam (more inclusive of Greek Christians than Matthew beginning with Abraham)
- Chapter 7 verses 36-50: Woman anoints Jesus's feet
- Chapter 10 verses 25 37: Good Samaritan
- Chapter 10 verses 38 -42 Mary and Martha
- Chapter 15 verses 11- 32: Prodigal son
- Chapter 19 verses 1 -10: Zacchaeus
- Chapter 23 verses 39 -43: "Today you will be with me in paradise"
- Chapter 24 verses 13 -49 The road to Emmaus
- Chapter 22 verse 7 – 24 verse 12: Passover to Easter Day

You might just detect my favourite Gospel writer from these selections!

Next time we will meet the Fourth Gospel writer, the one who did not see things the same way, when we enter the world of John.

Susan Peatfield



From Me to You: love Poems by U.A.Fanthorpe and R.V. Bailey

Published by Enitharmon, 2007, reprinted 2012

One thing I have been able to do during lockdown is re-discover poetry. Well, I say re-discover, I have had a hate/love relationship with poetry ever since A-Level English. I want so desperately to love poetry. I even on occasion write some, very bad, poetry, But I can never quite grasp it. I always feel there is something more in it that I am missing, that I'm reading it wrong or getting the words wrong or something. So for years I have struggled with poetry.

Then, over a beer with a very good friend one evening we got into discussing poetry and finally, for the very first time, I admitted my struggle with it. My friend sat silent for a moment and then just said, that's fine. if you don't like a poem, just pass over it and go on to the next one. At the same time he introduced me to the work of David Scott, whose poems we had at the Dawn Service on Easter Day. That comment and introduction opened poetry for me.

Then, in the first few weeks of lockdown celebrities were encouraged to offer their favourite poems and one offered 'Atlas' by U.A. Fanthorpe and I thought it was brilliant. A poem about love in all its gritty, everydayness. It is wonderful. I found it again in this volume by U.A. Fanthorpe and her life partner R.V. Bailey. It is a book of love poems they wrote to each other over several years. The poems mark special occasions and celebration, darker parts of life (as when one of them went into hospital to be treated for cancer) and the ordinary. This is a lovely little book. Not sloppy or flowery but heartfelt and often deep. Easily read this is a book to be kept near by and dipped into regularly. You will always find a gem here.

Fr David

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Contemplative Prayer Gathering.

Contemplative Prayer Gathering offers a space in the day to be still before God. Looking into ourselves to see how close to God we are. Distractions will draw us away. The shopping, supper, reports and action plans. Yet we are called by God through Christ to be in God's presence. After all is not that a description of heaven. In finding space to recognise God with us we get to touch heaven. In the peace and silence of our shared prayer our closeness to God becomes more real. We are not far from God. the temptation is to see God as something grand and far away. In his Son God has come near and has promised through the Holy Spirit to be with us always. In Contemplative prayer we call upon the holy spirit to remove that veil we place in our lives and reveal the God who is with us. Sharing in that journey is what we Christians do. We gather in church to worship and praise our God; to break bread together and share in the body Christ has given to us. So too with Contemplative Prayer. We practice on our own in our home but come together to share in supportive prayer that encourages us. It is a joy. Come and join us, Wednesdays @ 5pm.



Supporting Local Business –

Hopefully, by the beginning of next week our local businesses will be open and running as normally as possible. It is still important we support our local businesses as best we can for now. I believe the businesses we have listed below are still offering their services. Use them if you can, they are worth it.

Steak on the Green, Haven Green. Please think about supporting a local business by visiting Steak on the Green's Steak Shop website and having excellent quality steak and other ready to cook food delivered to your door. (At least three parish households have made the most of this and recommend them!) Visit

<https://www.steakonthegreen.com/shop>

ECC: Electric Coffee Co., Haven Green. As a follow up to the piece last week on the ECC I did place an order for bread flour. True to his word, after making the BACS transfer of £6 Simon appeared the next afternoon with two 1.5kg bags of flour that have made splendid loaves. The service was friendly and easy. I would recommend. Check out their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Electric-Coffee-Co-187327251353877/). They list their wines there too as well as an interesting array of stock to sell. The email Simon on simon@electriccoffee.co.uk with your order. He'll give you the banking details, you make the transfer and voila! another happy customer. A few of us have used this service. Its very good.

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We have received a letter from the Ealing Foodbank Manager I thought you might like to read. Here it is.

Hello from the Foodbank

On Monday 23rd March, we all had to face the challenge of doing things differently, and this email is to let you know how we now continue to serve those who have been referred to the foodbank.

In March, we had to close all our centres, except in Hanwell. We are now serving people from our warehouse, at St Mellitus church hall, but have had to lose two 2hr sessions from pre-Covid times. Our peak week was at the end of May, when in only 5 days, we gave away sufficient food to feed 999 people 3 meals for 3 days. The weekly average fed in 2019 was 277...

We had to ask many of our older volunteers to take a break and stay in to stay safe and know that for some that was a very difficult thing to have to do. We really hope that sometime soon we will be able to welcome them back to serving again as I know many of them want to do.

We stand amazed at the awesome grace of God, in the generosity of donors of finance, time and food - we have mostly managed to 'break even' with food arriving in similar quantities as the amount we give away. Last Wednesday (3rd June) we received 5.94 tonnes, and gave away 5.93 tonnes!

To see more of how the foodbank looks at the moment, please follow this link for a short video from Christopher Ramsay, our Chair of Trustees.

<https://bit.ly/3h3G0Jv>

We are currently making plans to allow clients to come into St Mellitus, rather than continuing to queue on the pavement. This requires a degree of planning and preparation, but we hope to start by the end of June. From there, we will work on a 'replicable' model that we can move to our outlying client centres, and hope soon to be in conversation with the leaders of the churches that hosted us before lockdown about how to do that.

Please can I ask for your continued prayers and support:

- Thanksgiving for God's provision - for health and strength in the team; for the resources we've received - food, finance and volunteers; and for the amazing work of other organisations and places that have been able to help feed local people
- For wisdom as we move forward, trying to adapt to a new normal in the best and safest way possible
- For continued progress with helping our clients as they face the stress of this very difficult time

Thank you so much for your support, we can only do what we do because of it!

Best wishes
Janet Fletcher
Ealing Foodbank Manager

Please find our June Shopping List below:

Savoury Biscuits/Crackers; Tinned Fruit & Vegetables; Peanut Butter; Ketchup & Mayo; Vegetable Curry/Chilli – tins; Tinned Meat - beef, lamb, chicken, ham; Baked Beans - YES REALLY!; Shower Gel/Hand Wash/Bars of Soap; Shaving Foam & Razors; Nappies - Sizes 3 & 5

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We've got plenty of Pasta; Pulses

This foodbank is run in partnership with local churches, facilitated by Ealing Foodbank.
Registered charity number 1156369 | Registered in England and Wales

Prayer requests:

Please pray for:

Suzi; Cicely Pratt; Elaine Dunkley; Keith Win; John Pullan;
Madeleine Anthony; baby Peter Spagnolo

Recently deceased: Michael Mulligan

Those we cannot be with now and who weigh heavy on our hearts.

Carers and health workers; those keeping supplies lines operational

Each other and ourselves.

(if you would like names added to this list please send them to Fr David)



Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Contributions.

A very big thank you to those who have already contributed pieces to this newsletter. It is so great (and makes my life easier) to have contributions from our readers. It would be great to have more. Material to me at the email below by Wednesday would be great.

Ring The Archbishop!

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope, which is available from today, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

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Worship this week:

Sunday 14th June – Trinity I

09.15am Kids Church for all our younger members (via Zoom)

10.00am Parish Worship (via Zoom)

5.30pm Evening Prayer (via Zoom)

Monday – Friday

9am Morning Prayer (individual prayer)

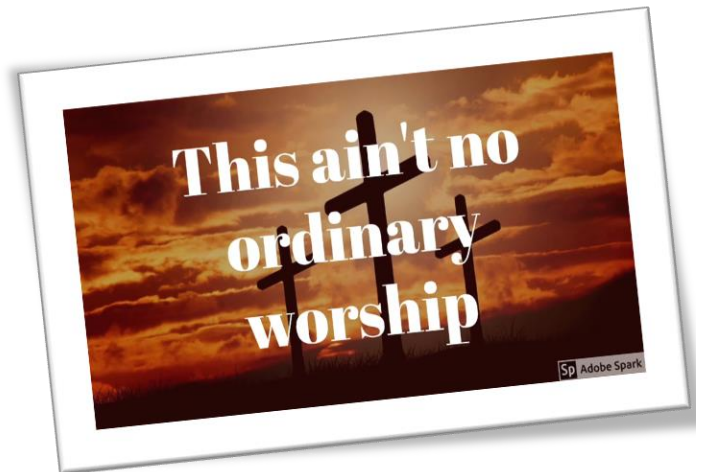
9.30pm Compline (via Zoom)

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday – Friday

5pm Evening Prayer (individual prayer)

Wednesday

5pm Contemplative Prayer (via Zoom)



You can download Zoom onto your device or you can call in by phone, dialling the number given in the email. You will also need to have downloaded the Daily Prayer app onto your device or find it via the Church of England website (www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer)

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS



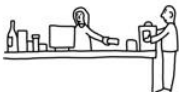
FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS; THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS.



FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPITE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED.



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY – WE PRAY – THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

TEXT: JAYNE MANFREDI

CartoonChurch.com

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Chaplaincy Fell Walk by U.A. Fanthorpe & R.V. Bailey

There is always one out in front
With superior calves and experienced boots;

Always a final pair to be waited for,
Not saying much, pale, rather fat;

And the holy ones in the middle, making it
Their part to acclimatize the lonely and new,
Introducing cinquefoil, a heron, a view;

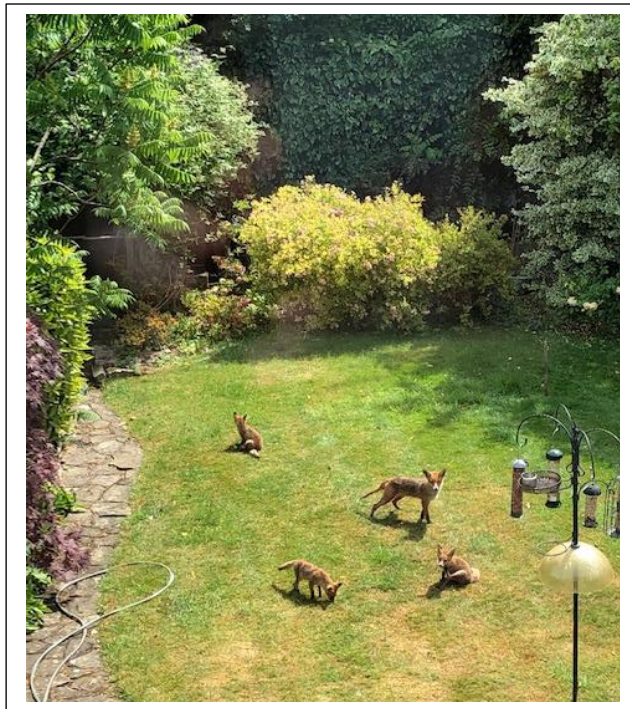
And a stout one who giggles, uniting us
In wonder at her unfaltering chokes;
But alarming too. For what is she laughing at?

And remote presence of hill;
And the absence of you.

(for Best Feet Forward, missing our walking trips – Ed)

'Rural life in Ealing'

picture taken by Richard Morse from his back garden



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