



St Peter's Parish

e-newsletter

3rd June 2020

www.stpeterrealing.org.uk

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

As I write this week's newsletter there seems to be little peace in the major cities of the USA. Racial tensions have exploded across the streets at the death of George Floyd in police custody. Protests have expressed anger in other cities across the world, even in London and our borough of Ealing. When the pandemic began the General Secretary of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres called for all warring factions to hold ceasefires and use the time to work for peace.

Peace is an elusive quality in the life of humanity; with a broad interpretation probably making it that little more elusive. When Paul talks of peace as a fruit of the spirit what can he mean? Social justice and diplomacy? Quiet and comfort?

Paul is always concerned with the status of the individual. When we read his epistles, we see Paul is concerned primarily with the relationship of the individual with their saviour. It is the salvation of each person who hears his words or reads his writings that is Paul's paramount concern. That is not to exclude other things but to see, for Paul, other things come from this established and good relationship. If the faithful have a good relationship with God then the world is changed for ever. The peace Paul calls for begins in our heart, begins in us. For these characteristics to be fruits they must go out from us. The fruit of a plant is not meant to be ornamental. It serves the purpose of nourishing others and sowing seeds that more may grow and bear fruit. So it is with the fruits of the spirit. They come from us as they have been given to us in the gifting of the Holy Spirit. As we come closer to God and deepen our relationship with God we are changed, we are made new and the renewal works itself out in our lives as we bear fruit. As we find peace in God and understand the power and wonder of God's love in us so we share that same peace in the world. That peace that brings justice and equality for everyone, regardless of creed, colour, gender or sexuality; that same peace desires peace between neighbours, neighbourhoods and nations; that peace brings healing and wholeness to our souls and ourselves.

For your prayers: You will remember the joyous Easter news of the birth of Peter Spagnolo. Baby Peter has become very poorly with an as yet undiagnosed illness and has been admitted into Great Ormand Street Hospital for tests. Daniel, Peter's dad has asked we might pray for Peter. Please keep Peter, Daniel and Valentina in your prayers.

Fr David

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HOW TO MAKE AN ORIGAMI DOVE

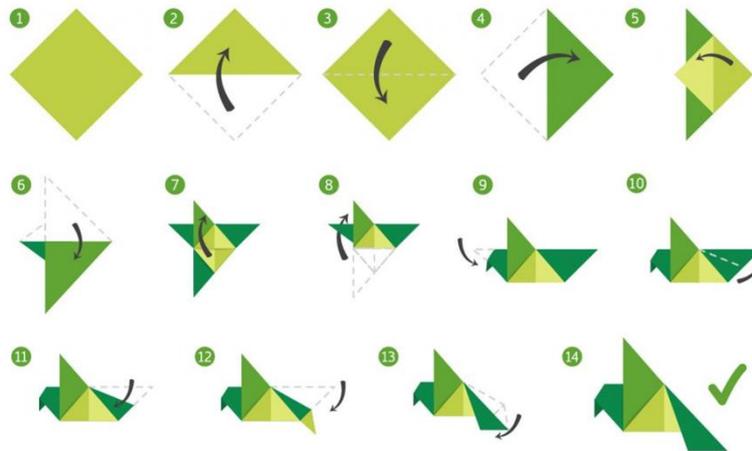


Image: Inspiring/Shutterstock

The dove has become a common symbol of peace. Maybe we could make one and put it in the window or use it for our reflections as peace becomes an ever more valuable part of our lives.

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)

This Sunday at 12 noon Fr Adam is planning a 30-minute session on The Trinity. He will be sending out a Zoom invitation this weekend.

Lost Stock Box



There are so many consequences of the Coronavirus. For 3 months or more millions of us have not been able to go clothes shopping. What then happens to that stock? What happens to the stock that has yet to reach the shops? \$2 billion USD of stock, all made and awaiting delivery has been set for landfill because of cancelled orders. Workers in countries like Bangladesh that rely on this industry have been left without work or pay. As one factory owner has said, 'If the coronavirus doesn't kill my workforce, starvation will'. In response to

this Lost Stock Box has been launched. Buy a box, giving your details, and in 6-8 weeks a box of clothes arrives, in your size, of quality, new clothing. If you would like to know more go to <https://loststock.com>

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Finding Your Way Round Your Bible: The Old Testament Apocrypha.

The word “apocrypha” means hidden in Greek. The books I am talking about today are probably so well hidden that you will not find them in your Bibles at all. Their titles are:

I and 2 Esdras
Tobit
Judith
Additions to Esther
Ecclesiasticus (or Sirach)
Letter of Jeremiah (or Baruch)
The Song of the Three
Daniel and Susanna
Daniel, Bel and the Snake (or Dragon!)
The Prayer of Manasseh
I and 2 Maccabees.

Here is a link to the texts: <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-Revised-Standard-Version-Anglicised-Catholic-Edition-NRSVACE-Bible/#booklist>

The history of these 14 books and why they are in some versions (Roman Catholic) today and not in others (Reformed) is long and complicated, and takes us into some interesting questions about how the any of the books we know as “Biblical” were selected – something for another day!

It was St Jerome, who when he set about translating the Latin translation of the Bible in 382AD found that some collections of Hebrew scriptures had 14 extra books. He thought they had been “hidden” away or had hidden meanings. Later this shifted and more often now they are seen as “second division” writings.

The Anglican church’s position on these books is that they are not part of the true accepted “canon” of the 66 books of the Bible, but that they contain material of value to Christian readers.

A generalisation is that either the history, narrative voice, subject matter, teaching or tone of these books stands at slight odds or inferiority to the “authority” of the 66. We shall have a look at examples of this in a moment.

So in our Bible bookshop we might expect to find these hidden works in some secret chamber or hidden staircase, but in fact we mainly just need to work our way back through the sections we have already visited and peer a bit more closely, as most of these books are “additional” to the history and literature we have already looked at.

The books of Esdras are additional to the accounts of Ezra and the return from Exile in Babylon to rebuild the Temple and Temple worship in Jerusalem, but include many “end of the world” visions of a later date.

The book of Tobit, set at the time of the Assyrian’s taking the Northern Kingdom of Israel into captivity in Ninevah. The account of Tobit’s son Tobias and his adventures with an angel – and a dog- are extraordinary reading. Tobit himself is a rather boastful version of Job. (See Tobit chapters 1 and 2 for examples of this – and some Jewish humour.)

The story of Judith the beautiful Jewish widow, who cuts off the head of the Assyrian commander Holofernes, has echoes of the story of Esther, and of Jael and Sisera (Judges 4). It is well-beloved by artists who love the dramatic visual possibilities of the account. It is problematic to its claim to authenticity that the author describes King Nebuchadnezzar as

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an Assyrian while he actually belongs a couple of centuries later in Babylon. (See Judith chapters 11 – 13 for the rich and then gory details.)

The additions to Esther develop the descriptive world of dazzling wealth and power of the Persian court, and include letters and a dream that develop the story as told in the book of Esther itself.

Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) and the Wisdom of Solomon belong in the same section as the Proverbs and Ecclesiastes (Poetry and Wisdom.) The section in Ecclesiasticus chapter 44 “Let us now praise famous men” has entered our cultural language and adds to our Bible biographies.

The four extra parts to the book of Daniel we shall meet a bit later on, but for now “Bel and the Dragon” and “Susanna and the Elders” make quick and powerful reading. It is worth comparing them with the stories of the prophet Elijah (1 Kings 18 verses 20 -39) and the accounts of David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel chapter 11) and think about the differences.

The Letter of Jeremiah is additional to Jeremiah’s writings and also contains some wisdom material.

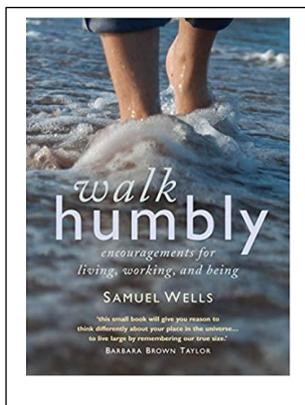
The Prayer of King Manassah shows a repentant ruler of Judah finding his way to God after a lifetime of sin. We are familiar with part of his prayer in our Easter liturgy. (See verses 9 – 15).

Finally the books of Maccabees give us a glimpse or rather a whisper from the “400 years of SILENCE” I mentioned last time. The books tell of the events of the 2nd Century BC when the Greeks of Alexander the Great’s time ruled Palestine, the desecration then restoration of the Temple, up to 61 BC when Pompey and the Romans invaded. It is a detailed and repetitive account but fills in some fascinating gaps between “Bible history” and “world history”. The story of the of the Jewish festival of Hanukah is also described here (1 Maccabees chapter5).

Spending time in the 14 books Apocrypha is rewarding, not least as it often throws into sharp relief the sheer quality and power of the other 66.

So now we are ready to end the silence, we are on the threshold not of a new section, but a whole new world. Over two thirds of the way through our Bibles we are about to encounter GOOD NEWS - watch this space for the Gospels!

Susan Peatfield



Walk Humbly by Samuel Wells

Published by Canterbury Press, 2019

There are few truly spiritual books written in any generation. Some might argue that to be particularly true of our generation. There are books written about spirituality and prayer, lots of books. There are good spiritual books. Sometimes they don’t stand the test of time, being relevant now but in a short while being dated and discarded. Popular because the writer is popular at the time but when they drop out of popularity so do their books. Yet occasionally a book comes along that you read, and then dip back

into, go back and read again and then continually dip in and out of for sometime afterwards. You then put it on the bookshelf and a little while later you think about it and check it’s still on the book shelf and then take it out and read a few pages.

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At the moment at least this is how I've treated this book from Sam Wells, vicar of St Martins in the Fields and husband to the Bishop of Guildford. I should admit to a slight bias in that I very much rate Sam's writing and enjoy his offering on Thought for the Day and I have heard him speak a couple of times. This book is unusual because Sam takes a different approach to our relationship to the universe. In it he encourages us to see ourselves in reality, accept ourselves for who we are and then to celebrate that knowledge using it to help us understand our relationship with God. Sam does it in a language we can all get to grips with whilst being encouraged to grow and be stretched. As Barbara Brown Taylor says in her review "this small book will give you reason to think differently about your place in the universe. Whilst offering practical encouragement for simpler, richer living"

Fr David

Contemplative Prayer Gathering. Our

Contemplative Prayer Gathering aims to help us find the space to be with God, without words or actions, just being. We have noticed these past few weeks how much more can be heard in our world when extraneous noise is stopped. When the planes stop flying over head, when cars are stilled, when crowds disperse all that is left is silence. The silence of our heart beat, of the blood pumping through our ear drums. The silence of the bird song; the silence of the universe. Silence has become more noticed and in many cases valued. As life begins to speed up, as more cars appear on the roads and planes in the sky so we are saddened by the loss of that silence. And yet we can find that silence in ourselves. We have heard echoes of God in the silence and valued God's creation. Contemplative prayer helps us be in God's presence; helps us to get past the noise of life to be in God's presence. It is not easy to do but is very do-able. With encouragement from others, with support and some gentle guidance hearing God and being in God's presence can be a very powerful thing. With our fellow travellers and our sacred word, a word made sacred by its use not by its definition, contemplative prayer helps us relax into God's presence, into God's arms. Br Thomas Keating using the image of a river, a busy, boat filled river. This is all that is passing through our minds, filling our thought, creating noise that blocks out God. as we stand on the river bank our eyes fall upon the boats and the busy-ness. Using our sacred word we are gently drawn back to focusing on God and being in God's presence, knowing and loving God and being known and loved by God. Our minds will draw us back to that busy river. Br Thomas says just let it all go, use your sacred word and come back to God. Over time and with practice it becomes easier to focus on God and centre oneself in His presence. We take time each week to do this together to be encouraged in our prayer and discipline and in fellowship to be encouraged on our journey. Come and join us, Wednesdays @ 5pm.



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Supporting Local Business –

Thank you for supporting our local businesses. As the situation begins to change this is still a very important thing to do. Local business is the life of our community. So we hope you can continue to support them. These below have been tried out and are very good. If you know of others, we can advertise here; please let Fr David know. It is good to shop local.

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. It's very good.



Last week Ealing Foodbank gave out 900 food parcels. We even had at one point to buy tins of baked beans so much food was being distributed. As people's lives continue to be wrecked by this virus Ealing foodbank is working harder than ever. Please help this work. Give whatever you can with a little extra in your shopping. Shopping can be dropped off at the Vicarage or at our local shops such as Waitrose or Tesco's where you will find drop off points. Please do help as best you can. These times are hard for many local families, and it does not look as if it is getting better anytime soon.

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

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

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Prayer requests:

Please pray for:

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

Recently deceased: Joan Brooks; 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.

Worship this week:

Sunday 7th June – Trinity Sunday

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)

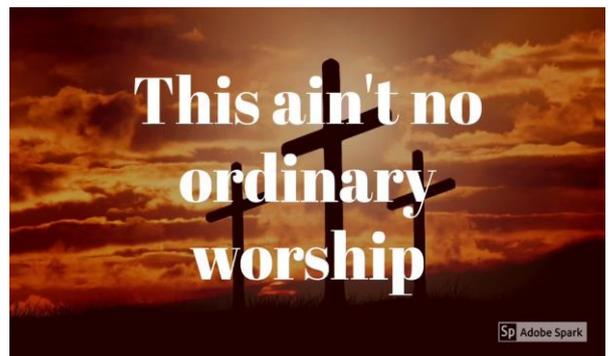
9.30pm Compline (via Zoom)

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 you device or find it via the Church of England website (www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer)

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Ring The Archbishop!

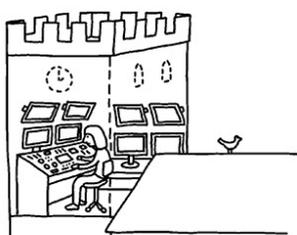
The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

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.

THE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

THEIR DUTIES



STAFF THE CONTROL ROOM IN THE TOWER



PUT THE RESERVATION TICKETS ON THE PEWS



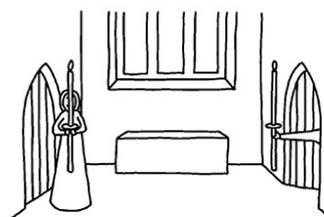
KNOW WHERE THE CLERGY ARE AT ALL TIMES



MAKE SURE THE SERVICE SHEETS ARE DISTRIBUTED



ARRANGE FOR BROKEN THINGS TO BE FIXED



STAND IN FOR LAST-MINUTE ROTA ABSENTEES

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