

The Lighthouse



Third Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reading: John chapter 2 verses 13–22.

‘Clean your heart.’ – Anthony B

Dear Friends, It’s great that Neil Adams is preaching today during the online worship, and that Kathy is leading our prayer time. We have a lot to be thankful for when we recall the gifts and commitment of local ministry here in the Benefice with Neil, Alan and Kathy, not to be confused with Peter, Paul and Mary.

Keep on with the vac. I trust you have had your first jab. Be ready for the second jab most likely around the middle of April. May I suggest that it is not the time to be complacent? Having had a jab, there is that feeling of jubilation and the thought that we are almost there as we work through this pandemic. The official recommendation is that that we still apply the ‘Hands, face, space’ rule, with the helpful suggestion that we wash our hands well, whenever we come back into the house.

Cleanliness is one of the themes of our reading in John 2. So, ‘keep on with the vac’ in a different sense. We have two vacuum cleaners, both expensive! The first one, a Miele, failed after a couple of years, so we replaced it with a Sebo. Little did I know that a hefty kick would jolt the Miele back to life and full working order! Jesus clears the Temple. With the unique power of the Spirit of God, Jesus sorts out the undignified mess in the Temple, sweeping out the corruption, the unholy exploitation and misuse of God’s house. By reading our Scripture Reading for today, we see that Jesus is teaching that he is God’s Temple. More than that, he is the one sacrifice for the sins of the world. At the time of the Jewish Passover, Jesus teaches that he is passing by, to save his people. This is not an easy passage of scripture, so we may need to ponder on it to see what is really being said.

I hope you enjoy seeing the ‘ponderings’ of home schooling as my 6-year-old grand-daughter answers a question on her Maths paper.

Every blessing, Derek the Cleric.

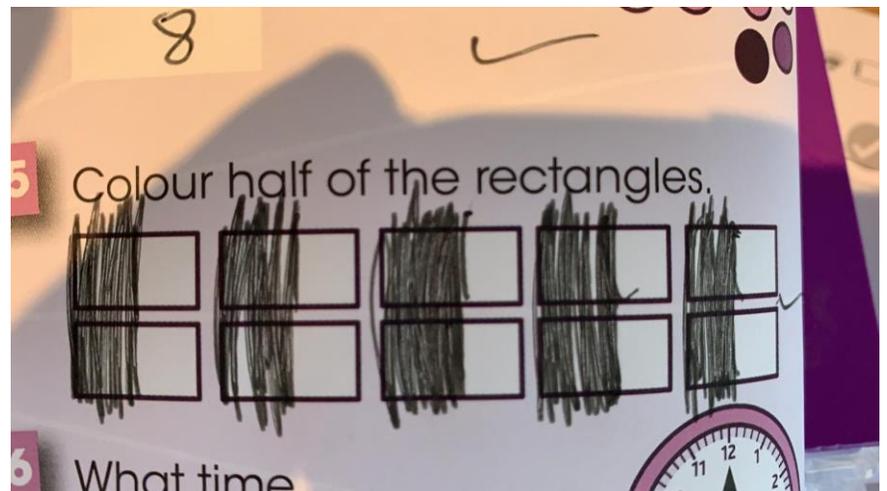


Photo: Walker family

To the young people returning to school [Parents might wish to show their offspring this bit!]:

Please keep safe by washing your hands well, keeping a safe distance, thinking of other people and taking care as you travel to and from school. Catch on to how you use the swab.

Have a great time at school now that you are back with your friends.

Prayer for a first day at work or school

O God, the strength of my life,
make known your will for me in this place:
help me to discover friends among strangers,
to meet opportunities and challenges eagerly,
and to do my daily tasks in your name.
Give me strength to overcome my worries,
and preserve me in your safe keeping,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

– A prayer from the Church of England website

We give thanks for:

- + Lent and time to reflect on God's presence in our lives
- + our church community and our families and friendships
- + progress being made in treatments for coronavirus
- + God's grace, love and forgiveness
- + God's word and help for our own situations
- + acts of kindness, courage and selflessness
- + the comfort and reassurance of the Holy Spirit
- + that we can take our worries to Jesus in prayer
- + signs of spring in the garden
- + time spent outside in nature
- + the continuing success of the vaccines rollout

Spring Harvest



Spring Harvest's annual Easter Break festival goes online again this year. It runs from 4th to 8th April.

To find out more and to subscribe for access, visit their website at [Spring Harvest | Homepage](#).

–Rev Mark

Thank you!

NHS

In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here!

Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"

–John 2: 14–16



We pray for all Christians in countries where they are persecuted for their faith.

EGYPT

Population 101.2 million. 16.3 million Christians.

Christians from a Muslim background often have great difficulty in living out their faith since they face enormous pressure from their families to return to Islam. The state also makes it impossible for them to get any official recognition of their conversion. The level of violence that Christians face is high.

Prayer points

- Pray for protection for Christian women and girls, who are often vulnerable to abduction and forced marriage.
- Pray that the Egyptian police and courts will treat Christians justly and without discrimination.
- Pray for wisdom for Open Doors partners supporting Christians in most need.

If you'd like to know more about the situation for Christians in Egypt, do take a look at Open Doors' website and watch list: [Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide - Egypt - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)

A prayer for Egypt from Open Doors

Lord Jesus, break through and bring about the safe release of all Christians kidnapped, imprisoned or forcibly held because of their faith. Bring an end to all senseless attacks and abductions against Your children. Build the faith of Your people, and help them to persevere despite enormous challenges. Protect families and may Your peace fill the hearts of the fearful. Move Egypt's leaders to protect the rights of the Christian minority, and instil a determination among local police to seek out justice for wrongdoing. Amen.

Thanks to Revd Adrian for providing these prayers for the persecuted church.

Wordsearch – Jesus clears the temple

Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle. All the words can be found in John chapter 2 verses 13 to 22.

C	R	A	A	C	W	N	B	O	D	Y	P	E	P
A	R	I	I	I	E	H	B	O	P	O	P	I	W
T	I	V	E	H	T	A	I	C	S	A	V	R	E
T	E	T	O	I	M	Y	M	P	H	A	E	E	I
L	R	P	E	E	H	S	I	E	E	U	X	V	S
E	W	O	E	I	I	C	R	P	Y	T	C	O	S
E	T	E	K	R	A	M	A	T	M	H	H	S	U
N	G	I	S	S	S	W	C	E	M	O	A	S	S
E	L	X	E	N	I	C	U	M	O	R	N	A	E
S	R	R	I	I	P	C	L	P	N	I	G	P	N
B	Y	R	M	O	R	D	O	L	E	T	I	O	O
O	A	N	T	C	P	U	U	E	Y	Y	N	G	V
Y	R	R	R	H	A	M	S	B	E	E	G	P	C
S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E	K	E	O	P	E

- SCRIPTURE
- SHEEP
- SIGN
- CATTLE
- MONEY
- EXCHANGING
- MIRACULOUS
- DOVES
- MARKET
- WHIP
- COINS
- AUTHORITY
- TEMPLE
- BODY
- PASSOVER

Stopwatch:
how quickly
can you solve
these anagrams?

PET ELM

JAB OIL UNIT

WEEP SING

QUIET SON

RESPONDING

(All are words found in Derek's letter. Answers, last page.)

We Will Meet ...

Thanks to Charlotte for sending us this hymn by the Norwegian pastor and folk singer Hans-Olav Moerk, which has been set to music by John L. Bell. You can hear a lovely recording by the Iona Community at this link: ['We Will Meet' updated - The Iona Community](#)

We will meet
when the danger is over,
we will meet
when the sad days are done;
we will meet
sitting closely together
and be glad our tomorrow has come.

We will join
to give thanks and sing gladly,
we will join
to break bread and share wine;
and the peace
that we pass to each other
will be more
than a casual sign.

So let's make
with each other a promise
that when all
we've come through is behind,
we will share
what we missed and find meaning
in the things
that once troubled our mind.

Until then
may we always discover
faith and love
to determine our way.
That's our hope
and God's will and our calling
for our lives
and for every new day.

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Ideas for prayer

- + all those affected by the coronavirus
- + our NHS workers and those in care homes
- + key workers and those in essential services
- + our GPs, surgeries and staff tasked with caring for us and rolling out the new vaccines
- + people waiting to be called for the vaccine and those going for their jobs
- + our teachers and school staff, and for safety in the reopening of schools this week
- + our collective health and welfare
- + our nation and community life; our Government and its advisors
- + for wisdom and patience in dealing with the many changes to our ways of life
- + our children and young people, their parents and caregivers
- + all who are worried about, or who have lost, their jobs, livelihoods and businesses
- + those who are homeless
- + those who are suffering any injustice – racial, social, economic
- + those facing any illness or medical treatment
- + those who feel isolated and those who cannot be with their families
- + our young adults; our elderly neighbours and family members
- + all who make our worship services possible and all who attend, in church or online
- + families bereaved at this time and those not able to use the church as they would wish to
- + hope, encouragement and peace during this time of continuing restrictions
- + that people will respond to the call by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to pray daily for the nation and those who have died

Anagrams: Temple, jubilation, sweeping, question, ponderings With help from: anagrammaker.com



www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
dersinghamonlineworship.com

