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Online Edition



"Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley"

I do like to
be beside the
Seaside

... stroll along
the prom prom prom



Rev. Sylvia Lafford writes.....

Dear Friends,



I trust you are now beginning to be able to live somewhat more normally at long last. I hope and pray that the long periods of isolation and worry are not having any lasting effect as we are now, hopefully all enjoying more freedom and making the most of the summer months. May you all have had or are looking forward to, time for rest and refreshment.

Despite all that is going on in the wider world, and still in our own country, we do have much to be thankful for. Most of all, as Christians, we have hope. This is what sets us apart. Rev'd Rich has preached on this hope, our hope, and also run the course 'Hope Explored'. I think we all need reminding of the amazing hope we have in Jesus's promises.

During some of those sermons in June he talked about the joy we have in knowing where we are going, by the grace of God, at the end of our earthly life and what a privilege it is to be with someone at this stage of life. There is something to look forward to. The best is yet to come. This resonated with me as during my time as a hospital chaplain I also had that privilege. In sector ministry you are there for people of all faiths and none and I could be asked to say prayers with those of other faiths, something I always found particularly humbling. To have the opportunity to be with families at this time, is very special. On the lighter side, I could be saying hello to someone who would say 'I am not ready for you yet Vicar but thanks anyway! I was often referred to as that 'Lady Vicar' which I always found amusing and enabled us to smile. This was sometimes the start of a conversation which at times I was then able to end in prayer.

Writing about prayer has prompted me to remind myself and you perhaps, that if you are in the prayer partner scheme to keep up the prayer for your named person. As well as praying for those in need, it is good to have one person we regularly pray for and know that one person is praying for us. Thank you to all of you who are part of this scheme. I hope that when it is time to think about choosing new prayer

partners, we will have more people from our growing family at St Peter's who will join.

I have said that we have much to be thankful for, and thinking about our growing family at St Peters, that is surely something we should be very thankful for. By the grace of God and much hard work, we have many new friends coming through our doors and it has been wonderful to see lots more young people enjoying our Sunday groups and learning about Jesus. I am sure that they, plus the adults, will enjoy the Superhero Academy, (Holiday Club 22-25 August).

May our church continue to grow in faith and hope and numbers as we look to a future where the love of God is spread ever more widely in our area.

With my love and prayers, and every blessing
Sylvia

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We behold the glory



TQ – Tingle Quotient – is the name given to those things that can produce a tingle down the spine or a frisson of excitement. It could be a piece of music or the sight of an evening sunset at sea or a newborn babe. We look, we hear, and what we look at or hear evokes a sense of wonder and amazement that has an almost physical effect on us. Something sublime unfolds before us producing delight and awe: a hint of glory that leads us to wonder and even to worship.

The monk who lived in cell no 6 at the Dominican convent of San Marco in Florence must have felt that when he entered his room and saw for the first time the fresco of the Transfiguration that Fra Angelico had painted. I am sure the sight would have stopped him in his tracks, just as Peter, James and John were stopped in their tracks as they beheld their Lord transfigured before them on the mount.

From 1436 Fra Angelico painted a whole series of frescoes for the convent from the High Altar to the Chapter House to the cells of the monks. Here in cell no 6 there is a restrained simplicity and directness about the Transfiguration. One of the three disciples looks out towards us, while the other two are caught up in wonder and awe as they look on Jesus with the faces of Moses and Elijah on either side.

Here Fra Angelico is not seeking to impress a wealthy patron: he is providing a focus for devotion and prayer for the monks of his community. The scene speaks to us of that sense of awe and reverence. On 6th August we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration. The Gospel accounts relate that special moment of revelation to the inner group of disciples. The glory shown to them evoked a sense of wonder and marvel, but also a sense of loss. For the glory proved elusive and just out of human reach. The moment of revelation passed, and the disciples had to go down the mount again to meet the crying needs of the world, all but forgotten when they were with their Lord on the mountain top.

The monk in his cell would ponder the glory of Fra Angelico's fresco, knowing that he would be called from his cell to take up his monastic duties. But the painting would go with him to sustain and nurture his life. It is the same with us: we have moments of glory. But they pass, and we must return to our daily lives. As we look on this month's painting, we sense that glory and wonder which can sustain us through life. As Thomas Jones says in his poem on this episode:

*Like a pearl we hold
Close to our hearts
what we have heard and seen.*

The Cathedral is full of dinosaurs

The Cathedral is full of dinosaurs – and no, that’s not a dig at my colleagues, I hasten to add! No, this summer, we’re hosting the Natural History Museum’s Killer Question exhibition, which explores what the famous T Rex was really like and shows what he/she and a number of other of these ancient creatures possibly looked like.

What on earth has this to do with the Cathedral’s primary purposes of worship and mission you may ask. Is this just a money-making gimmick, and has the Cathedral lost its spiritual bearings?

Well let’s first of all be honest enough to say that we are hoping to make quite a lot of money from the exhibition and from the thousands of visitors who come to see it. And that will be quite an important element in helping to keep the doors of the Cathedral open 365 days a year, the roof on, its staff paid and its ministry resourced.

But it’s not just about the money. We believe this is a real missionary opportunity.

Many people never darken the door of a Church building, of any sort, from one year to the next. Even rites of passage like weddings, funerals, christenings are becoming increasingly secularized and coming to church is no longer the norm. Events and exhibitions like this however, bring a huge number of families and young people through our door and into our extraordinary and awesome space, which dinosaurs or not, unmistakably speaks of Christ at the centre of all that we are about. Visitors entering the West Door won’t see a dinosaur they will see the great cross that hangs at the head of the nave – and the figure of Jesus whose death and resurrection is at the heart of our faith.



Our past experience, (we have hosted space capsules, moons and Gaia earth in recent years) tells us that coming to the Cathedral offers many people a chance (an excuse maybe) to connect to the faith

we proclaim; to light a candle, say a prayer, have a conversation with a chaplain. It really can be a small step (perhaps the first) on the journey of faith.

And as for dinosaurs – well it also gives an opportunity to dispel some of the myths about science and religion, for example that the Church doesn't "believe" in evolution. Perhaps it will help us make the connection with the really important issues about the extinction of species, which isn't something that only happened millions of years ago. It's happening now – and what are we planning to do about it and the big issues of bio-diversity and climate change?

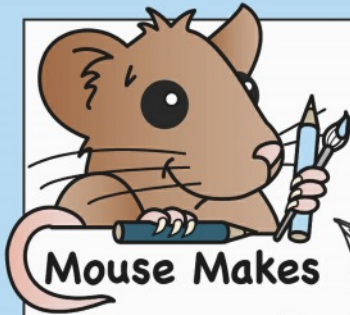
Widening our imaginations, encouraging questions, attracting new people, engaging creatively with those who come, and also supporting our mission financially. We think that's a win win!

Happy holidays to those who are having them
God bless you



Chris Dalliston
Dean of Peterborough

**If you would ever like to make a donation to
St Peter's Church,
your gift would be hugely appreciated.
Our bank details are as follows:
sort code 30-11-08,
account number 00060124.
Thank you.**



Mouse Makes

READ the full story in the book of Jonah



What swallowed Jonah?

A big _____

How long was he there?

three _____ and three _____

Jonah 1:17

JONAH'S JOURNEY

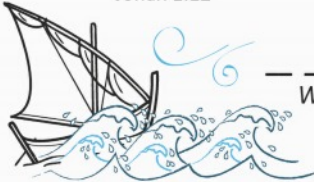
Which city did God tell **Jonah** to go to?



and why?

Jonah 1:12

Where did Jonah try to go instead?



What did he travel in?

Jonah 1:3

What did God send to stop him?

A great _____

What did Jonah tell the **sailors** to do to make the sea **calm**?

_____ him into the **sea**

Jonah 1:4-16



What did Jonah do?

_____ then what did the fish do?

Jonah 2:1-10

DID YOU KNOW?

In Bible times wearing itchy sackcloth made from goat's hair was a sign of grief and repentance



When Jonah reached Nineveh he proclaimed God's **message**...

_____ days
Jonah 2:1-10

What did the people do?

F _____

What did they put on?

Jonah 3:1-9

What did God do?

R _____
Jonah 3:10

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

Find the missing words. Look up the Bible references then look for them and the words on this page in **bold** in the word search



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This is a Trust which has recently supported our church St Peters, with urgently needed funds to repair the nave roof and we think it would be a good idea to help them and ourselves this year. The church will be open and it would be great if enough people would make themselves available to spend an hour in the church welcoming visitors and offering refreshments.

But in addition, this year we would like to organise a sponsored walk, cycle, or drive in our locality and combine it with a picnic. The idea is that we would set out from the church at 11.00 am and walk, cycle or drive to Turweston church. We would look around the church and then group together for a family picnic, after which, those who chose, would walk on across the fields to Evenley, look round the church there and have a drink on the Green before walking back to Brackley. Others might prefer to walk back to Brackley after the picnic and not do the longer walk.

We would encourage all participants to take a sponsorship form and invite all their friends and relations to sponsor them to do the walk.

All sponsorship money received would be divided equally between the NHCT and the church or chapel chosen by you.

This could be a really fun day out and an opportunity for the church family to come together to help other churches and ourselves.

Please see John Carter if you would like to be involved in any way.