

MONTHLY

MUSINGS

GOD
is our
refuge
and
STRENGTH
a very present
help in trouble
therefore we will not fear.

Psalm 46:1

September 2020

Remember, you are not alone!

Psalm 23 - a psalm for the pandemic

There are few psalms as personal and real as Psalm 23. It records David's experience of God as his Shepherd going through dark times. In the midst of the effects of a global pandemic, this psalm speaks to the fears that can overwhelm us.

He Knows Me: 'The Lord is my shepherd...' Just as a good shepherd knows every sheep in his flock, so God know each one of us intimately.

He Provides for Me: 'He makes me lie down in green pastures...' Just as the shepherd knows the needs of his sheep, so God will provide what we need in our lives and circumstances.

He Guides Me: 'He guides me along the right paths...' Just as the shepherd leads the sheep to the best pastures, so God provides the best for us, as we listen and follow Him.

He Protects Me: 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley...' Just as the sheep have no need to fear danger when following the shepherd, so we live knowing God's presence and protection.

He Comforts Me: 'your rod and your staff, they comfort me.' As the shepherd's rod defends the sheep, and the staff enables him to control the sheep, so God comforts us through His Word and discipline.

The final verses of the psalm (v5-6) offer the security of knowing that our lives are in His hands, even through death, as He leads us to the home we've been looking for all our lives.

Some years ago, a great actor was asked to recite Psalm 23, but asked one of the other guests to do the same. His remarkable rendition was followed by the other man, an older Christian speaking from the heart. Afterwards the actor said: *'The difference between us is that I know the psalm, but he knows the shepherd.'*



GIVE US STRENGTH

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen.*

Returning – to the new ‘normal’

As we begin to poke our heads out from the lockdown that has held us in our own homes for almost half of the year that will always be remembered – 2020, we find the new normal of half empty public transport, deserted cinemas, shops without customers, choirs are silent, swimming pools continue to lie empty, while professional sport has become an eerie ritual for TV viewers only. September is normally a period of new beginnings, re-awakening from the summer recess. This year of 2020 will see children returning to school, maybe starting new schools, colleges or universities – but these pupils will have been away from formal education for a long time.

So it is with our churches, we re-open, to meet again (socially distanced), to receive the lifeblood of our Anglicanism – the sacrament of Holy Communion once again. I look forward to welcoming you back, to a church that will (in many ways), be different to the church we know. By a careful managing of seating, and with innovative use of technology, we will be able to physically welcome, either in St.Hilary’s Church/Parish Centre approx the usual Sunday morning numbers, to include a number from St.Martins. Similarly, on a Wednesday morning, we re-open for Communion at All Souls, Tycoch. Unfortunately, until the 2m social distancing leaves us, we will be unable to re-open St.Martin’s at this time.

The new normal will need people’s understanding and help in adhering to government guidelines. It might be that you will not be able to sit in your usual place. As places will be limited, a pre-booking system will be put in place – details of how to pre-book can be found in the Weekly Newsletter. Where possible we will try not to use paper, in Killay collection will be possible using contactless credit cards, and the service will be live-streamed via the Internet. This enables those who are unable to physically join us, they can virtually join us from their own homes – anywhere in the world! The new normal means that we are not allowed to sing, services will be shorter in length, with one-way systems in place.

But the God that we come to church to worship, is the unchanging God – a God that is bigger than any virus! So we look forward to gathering together, but also moving the church forward, to be a ‘church without walls’. Let us look forward to being together again, but let us look out into the wider world, with a timeless message of truth and hope.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon – live, in the flesh, or on a screen near you!

Your Friend and Vicar

Canon Phillip



Nice to see you

On Sunday 30th August 22 members of St Hilarys and St Martins churches came together for a "Socially Distanced Social Gathering.!"

The afternoon started with an address and prayer from Canon Phillip, giving thanks to God for his guidance and overseeing us through the on-going Covid pandemic. Thanks were given to the Mission Group for organising the event in strict compliance with all Government and Church in Wales guidelines.

Everyone was seen to naturally observe 2 metre social distancing and sanitise their hands without needing any reminders. The one-off event was declared a success in meeting the aims of allowing everyone the opportunity to meet up and chat with church members that they hadn't seen since March. Everyone enjoyed catching up with each other under a glorious August bank holiday blue sky.



Have you noticed?

When you next enter the Church car park you cannot fail to notice the stunning new hardwood **notice board**. I have already conveyed my thanks to Colin Williams for making it and Roy Chapman and Roger Draisey for helping him to instal it. I'm sure Jem supplied the hardware and fittings too.?

Well done all concerned.

Regards

Mike Powell

Well done everyone

Congratulations are due to Jack Powell and Brother Sam (grandsons of Mike and Sylvia). Jack has graduated from Kings College-University, London, after Four years...including a year's placement living in Spain and Portugal...with a first in oral Spanish with Portuguese, and a 2:1 degree overall. He has secured a job supporting an MP in Portcullis House, Westminster.....

Sam, meanwhile turns 18 on September 2nd, and returns to his final year at Olchfa sixth form.....

(And Callum says don't forget me.....I am soon to return to year 5 in Sketty school !!)

Killay magazine – September 1970

God is a Materialist:

This is the title contained within the insert, written by David Attridge... “Though few today worship in Church, many people young and old *search* for God. Common to this quest is a *turning away from the world* of men and their systems, an attempt to shut out from the mind the sights and sounds, the colours and tastes and smells, the bodily sensations that make up our normal material existence. The question I want to ask is, ‘Are these seekers of the inner way going in the right direction?’

If we look seriously at our ancient Western Faiths, the opposite direction seems the one for ordinary men to take. Islam and Judaism and Christianity teach that there is no need to search for God; He is present, exposed and has made clear His will, Christianity adds that God has come into our world and lives in our City.

Christianity has sacraments, in our faith the material is holy and the body splendid. That is why a Christian is not a specially good man – Humanists are often as good; nor are most Churchmen specially noted for political concern – Communists may put us to shame; nor is the man in the pew and pulpit particularly devout as compared with Eastern gurus. Rather Christians are men who belong to a recognisable community, marked by sacraments – outward and earthly things, communicating an inner and heavenly meaning. As the Anglican article has it: ‘Sacraments ordained of Christ be not only badges or tokens of Christian men’s

profession, but rather they be certain sure witnesses and effectual signs of grace...’

Professor C.N.Dodd in his writing, *The Apostolic Preaching and its Developments* (London 1944 ed.) p.94...’At each Eucharist we are *there* – we are in the night in which He was betrayed, at Golgotha, before the empty tomb on Easter day, and in the upper room where He appeared; and we are at the moment of His coming, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet’.

– Interesting stuff eh??

YOUNG WIVES:

The following programme has been arranged for the first part of the session - **9th Sept:** Film show on the passion play at Oberammergau; Thursday **17th Sept:** Archidiaconal Rally at St.James Church Hall, Swansea at 7.30pm, speaker Miss Elena Yankovsky; **23rd Sept:** Autumn cleaning; **30th Sept:** Film and Talk by a representative of the Tulip Meat Company; **7th Oct:** Vicar’s Evening; **14th Oct:** Jumble Sale at 6pm.

HOSPITAL NEWS:

We send our good wishes to all who have recently been in hospital, especially Mrs. Holland, Heol Glasnant; Mr. Collins, Dunvant Road; Mr. Merlyn Williams, Gower Road; Mrs. Rawlings, Wellfield; Dr.Valerie Bird, Derlwyn; Mr.Cartner, Killan Road and the churchwarden of St.Hilary’s, Mr. W. Sparks.

Provision of Private Prayer:

At the end of July, the First Minister, Mark Drakeford MS gave churches permission to open for Private Prayer. I know that over the past weeks, a number of people have used this facility. We simply couldn't just open the doors, planning needed to be done, in order to make the space safe, the introduction of a one-way system, and the provision of hygiene supplies and PPE. There also needed to be supervisors, to welcome people and to enable the smooth running of an alien system.

Can I thank Simon for assisting in the provision of hygiene products, to Sian for putting together a rota of supervisors, to each and everyone who offered their time in supervising this exercise, and to all who cleaned the building.

Worship provision across the Ministry Area:

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated as follows.

Sundays: 10am St.Paul's, Sketty and 11am St.Hilary's, Killay.

Wednesdays: 10.30am All Souls, Tycoch and 11am St.Paul's, Sketty. Unfortunately, under current government and Church-in-Wales Guidelines, it will not be possible to have a Sunday service in Tycoch, nor a Thursday morning service in Killay. Please be aware that Covid Guidelines change from time to time, please make yourself aware of these changes, via news broadcasts.

Live-streaming of services at St.Hilary's:

Please be aware that a camera has been fitted, at the rear of St.Hilary's Church. As numbers are limited in the church, this will enable us to live-stream the service up to the Parish Centre, and also on the Parish of Killay web-site. If you attend St.Hilary's, you are giving implicit permission for any image of yourself to be broadcast in this way. If you have any queries, please speak with one of the Wardens or Canon Phillip.

Nominations for PCC membership and for Peoples Warden: If you click on the Annual Vestry Meeting button, on the homepage of Killay web-site, you will find nomination forms. As we are unable to meet, to hold a Vestry Meeting, we need to carry out this exercise virtually online. An electronic copy of the Parish of Killay Annual Report 2019 (including Annual Accounts) is also available on the web-site. Please note that nominations close on **Sunday 13th September**.

Celebrating 400th anniversary of the voyage of the Mayflower

If we find it difficult to cross the Atlantic just now, it was even worse 400 years this month. On 6th September 1620, 102 determined Puritans climbed on board the Mayflower and set sail from Plymouth. They had 30 crew to steer them across 3000 miles of open, perilous ocean.

Those Puritans, or 'Pilgrim fathers', could never have dreamed that their journey would become one of the most influential in world history. Their courage and purpose for the voyage would help shape the very history and culture of the USA.

The Pilgrim fathers themselves were in search of religious freedom and a new life. Years before they had rejected the Church of England, due to its Roman Catholic past, and in 1608 they had moved to Holland, where they could worship freely. But life was very hard there, and so the New World beckoned to them.

They had originally intended to use two ships, but the Speedwell sprang a leak shortly after sailing, and so they crowded as many as possible into the Mayflower. After a long and difficult 10 weeks at sea, they reached America, but could not reach their intended destination, Virginia, because of heavy seas. They finally landed in Provincetown Harbor, Cape Cod, Massachusetts on 11th November.

That presented the next great challenge: the bitter, harsh winter of Massachusetts. Half of the Pilgrims perished that

first winter, of hunger and cold. Without the help of the local Indigenous peoples to teach them food-gathering and other survival skills, all of the colony would probably have perished.

After months of hard work, by the 'Fall' of 1621 the tiny colony had its first harvest. They celebrated this great achievement with their new Indigenous friends. It became Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims had been convinced that God wanted them to go to the New World. They wrote: "We verily believe and trust the Lord is with us, and that He will graciously prosper our endeavours according to the simplicity of our hearts therein."

The Mayflower was one of the earliest pilgrim vessels, and so became a cultural icon in the history of the United States. This year, until coronavirus put a stop to things, many celebrations in the USA, England and the Netherlands had been planned.

A grain of sand at a time

This autumn, do you feel overwhelmed with all the things that you need to get done? Then think of your life as an hourglass. There are thousands of grains of sand in the top of the hourglass; and they all pass slowly and evenly through the narrow neck in the middle.

We are like that hourglass. When we start in the morning, there are hundreds of tasks which we feel that we must accomplish that day. But if we do not take them one at a time and let them pass through the day slowly and evenly, as do the grains of sand passing through the narrow neck of the hourglass, then we are bound to break our own fragile physical and mental structure. Do not attempt more than God designed you to do.

Music and memory

Have you ever heard a certain song or tune that immediately takes you back to your youth? It can be a very poignant moment.

When researchers at the University of Westminster examined the choices of 80 different guests on the BBC radio show Desert Island Discs, they found that most guests had chosen music which dated back to when they had been between 10 to 30 years old. This time span was identified as a 'self-defining period' in their lives.

The research concluded: "The music we know and love between the ages of 10 to 30 will play a significant role throughout our lives, connecting us as individuals to other people, places and times that become central to our identity."

What songs trigger the big memories for you?

SCHOOL

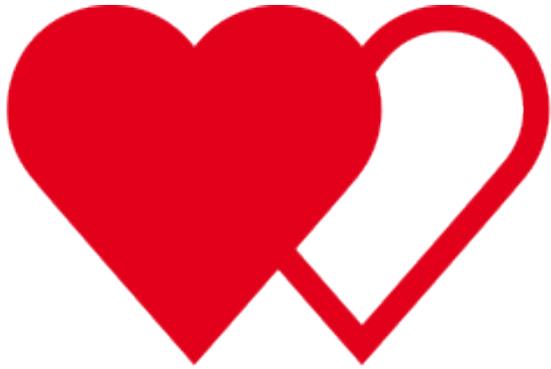
Mother to young daughter after first day at school: "Well, dear, what did they teach you today?"

Daughter: "Not much. I've got to go back again tomorrow."

ESSAYS

A second year student explaining to a first year student how to write essays: "When you take stuff from one writer, it's plagiarism, but when you take it from many writers, it's called research."

"Remember," said W.C. Fields, "a dead fish can float downstream, but it takes a live one to swim upstream."



Welsh Blood Service



Where can I donate?

Next session at the Parish Centre,
St Hilary's Church, Killay

Friday 11 September

11am - 1.30pm

3pm - 6.30pm

By appointment only, to book

 0800 25 22 66

www.welsh-blood.org.uk

If giving is in your blood, please help

If you have any 'Musings' you would care to share why not send them in ...

Roger Rees
email: rogerrees134@gmail.com