

Newsletter

Fourth Sunday after Trinity: 5 July 2020

Come to me all who are weary and overburdened, and I will give you rest.

I AM NOT SURE IF THIS EDITION MARKS THE LAST OF OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS OR THE FIRST OF OUR TWICE MONTHLY ONES! IT IS, THOUGH, AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT FOR ME TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PUBLICATION SO FAR AND ESPECIALLY TO THANK CHRIS TOZER WHO IS THE REAL EDITOR OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

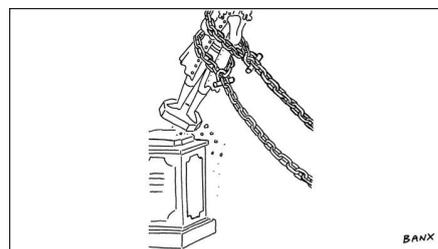
Sunday Readings: *Jeremiah 28.5-9; Psalm 89.1-4,15-18; Romans 6.12-end; Matthew 10.40-end*

Three Minute Sermon: written by Pamela Macey, Reader at our sister Church of St Martin's, Barton. The sermon was original written for last Sunday, it is entirely due to me that it has been moved to this Sunday. Her message though is as pertinent and timely this week as it was last week.

Jeremiah 28 vv 5 – 9, Psalm 89, Romans 6 vv 12 – end, Matthew 10 vv 40 – end

I expect like me you can recall times from last year when you felt like pulling your hair out when all the news was Brexit! Brexit! And yet more Brexit!

How we longed for a change and an end to the continual Brexit arguments. We should have known better! It changed BUT to Corona Virus – Covid 19 – lockdown and death and no church services! so we are learning to cope and long for change. And change has come in the form of the Black Lives Matter Movement with debates on the value of life and the role of slavery in history. It all seems another world far removed from what we are experiencing here. However it is not...



Our Second reading, Romans chapter 6 verses 12 to the end wades straight into the subject of slaves and slavery and we find we can no longer ignore the subject especially when St Paul dares to call us Slaves. How does that connect to the song Rule Britannia and the line 'Britons never, never shall be slaves!'

Well of course we have to remember that many of our own countrymen have been slaves over the centuries and still are. It is not always a matter of race but a matter of how people are dominated, abused and used by others. The whole question of modern slavery which is going on even now in plain sight is one that all of us Christians should be concerned about. It is not I would suggest a subject for rioting but a subject for careful and consistent prayer. Something I believe we can all do, even now, despite the limitations of lockdown.

But to return to St Paul: he was writing to the Christians and believers in Rome. It is thought that he was writing in Corinth about 57AD ahead of what he hoped would be his planned visit to Rome. The Epistle to the Romans has been described as an organised and carefully presented statement of his faith.

Slavery was a dominant feature of life in the Roman Empire and life in general so would be a subject about which all his readers were aware or even involved with in their daily lives. So St Paul uses a reference that all his readers would understand and bluntly tells them that before believing in Christ they were slaves to sin, to the devil. It is not quite as simple as saying believe in our Lord and we will never sin again. I think he is trying to warn us of the huge hold that the slavery of sin has over us. We all have our besetting sins:- envy, temper, greed, laziness, telling lies, gluttony etc.

By now most of us know which ones drag us down and which ones trap us most. St Paul is telling us that we have, can and do become slaves to these sins; because if we are not careful they rule and dominate our whole lives. He is challenging us to think of ourselves as slaves.... Slaves to sin, and hopefully that challenge will spur us on to free ourselves from the dominance of that slavery, that sin.

The Christian message is a way to free ourselves from that slavery to sin. When we turn to Christ, when we repent of our sins He gives us the strength to help us overcome them. Our Lord does not provide a magic button, as in children's programmes, He does however in His love and compassion give us the strength to try to free ourselves from the slavery of sin. To turn our back on those old habits. To repent and to be forgiven. To repent means to turn away, to turn back to. So in our case to turn back to God.. Paul is arguing we can and should try to turn away from sin and continually turn to Christ.

And now the Big 'But', St Paul goes one step further. He actually writes that we should still be slaves! Help! But this time Slaves to God. Slaves to His Righteousness. Slaves to His Love. Slaves to His Will.

Slavery to sins destroys both us and others; slavery to God is the Gift of Life. Slavery to God is a paradox as it means Freedom. Slavery to God is Eternal Life.

So I will finish with a paraphrase from St Augustine. A thought for us to ponder on during this coming week. A thought that I hope you will find makes perfect sense.

Love God and do what you want.

Parish News & Events

This Sunday (5 July) we reopen for public worship and there will be Mass at 9.30am & 10.30am. I have written to you separately concerning the appropriate arrangements that have needed to be put in place.

From next week, Weekday Mass will also resume initially with a service on Tuesday at 9.30am & Thursday at 6.30pm.

The Newsletter will move from weekly to twice a month.

Keeping in contact stays in place and there will be a recorded weekly Sunday Mass.

In line with Government guidance and Church of England advice our Church is now open for prayer and reflection. Generally I open the Church at 9.30am and close at mid afternoon.

Fr Paul's Contact Details

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The Lockdown Experience

Xavier the Seagull & my Lockdown Experience

I've noticed that there are several human creatures in Fr Paul's house - frankly, I am not sure how many cos they all look the same to me! I know who Fr Paul is because he gets annoyed with us and fires his water pistol at us! That is quite enjoyable but we play along with his games and retreat just out of range which seems to upset him even more!



Anyway, in addition to the humans the house contains two truly appalling creatures. They are quite unlike us beautiful seagulls, one is old and lazy but the other one chases us off our garage roof! But they do have one redeeming feature. They don't eat all their food so it sits in their bowls and it gets steadily more 'mature' and what do they do? They turn their noses up at it, unbelievable! Just thinking about it is making my mouth water, for well 'mature' food is a gourmet meal for us seagulls. The more rancid the better, I say!

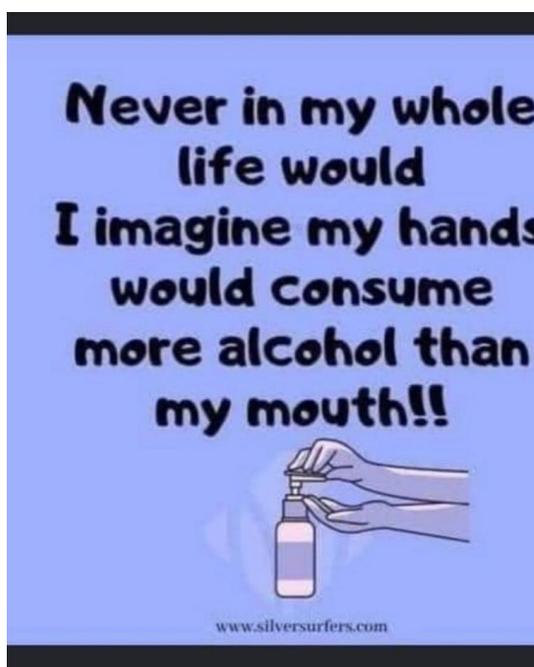
Now between you and me the trick is to wait til Fr Paul leaves the backdoor open and then sneak in and steal the lovely delicious congealed cat food. We call this, 'Operation Vicarage'.

Now I live on a roof in Warbro Road and regard myself as Plainmoor born and breed. This lockdown thingy has been truly awful for us seagulls. All the takeaways in Plainmoor have been closely guarded, the supermarket has been closed and the school rush hour has disappeared. All these activities provided us seagulls with a rich diet of bits of pizza, poppadoms, chocolate flakes and best of all discarded chips. Since the lockdown - nothing.

Frankly, I can't wait for the lockdown to be over cos I am starving hungry. Mind you, I have developed quite a taste for ripe cat food!

Must be off, just heard a rumour of an overturned wheelie bin ...

A Bit of Humour



FAIRY TALES IN PANDEMIC TIME



Brain Teasers

SILLY QUIZ!!! I've shrunk the lines together again.

1. What is always coming, but never arrives?
2. What can be broken, but is never held?
3. What is it that lives if it is fed, and dies if you give it a drink?
4. What word would you use to describe a man who does not have all his fingers on one hand?
5. What can one catch that is not thrown?
6. What is it that if you have, you want to share me, and if you share, you do not have?
7. If a plane crashes on the border between the USA and Canada, where do they bury the survivors?
8. If you had only one match and entered a dark room containing an oil lamp, some kindling wood, and a newspaper, which would you light first?
9. How did the boy kick his soccer ball ten feet, and then have it come back to him on its own?
10. How was it possible that every single person in an airplane crash died but two people survived?
11. What breaks and never falls, and what falls and never breaks?
12. Some months have 31 days, others have 30 days, but how many have 28 days?
13. What do you call a woman who knows where her husband is all the time?
14. What do you sit on, sleep on, and brush your teeth with?
15. What is it that goes up, but never comes down?

GREEN QUIZ

1. Which large green variety of cooking apple was named after a 19th century butcher who was first grower of the fruit (reputedly)?
2. Which green or yellow liqueur has been distilled since 1607 by the Carthusian monks?
3. In which sport was Lucinda Green world champion in 1982?
4. Which organisation established in 1971 focuses on environmental and green issues?
5. What is green bacon?
6. The Olympic flag bears the emblem of five coloured rings. Which one is the green one? e.g. left, second from left, middle, second from right or right.
7. By which process do green plants trap light energy and use it to drive a series of chemical reactions?
8. What name is given to a young green cabbage that is picked before the heart has fully developed?
9. On a standard golf course, what is the minimum distance between tee and green on any hole?
10. In the children's nursery rhyme, what did Little Johnny Green do?
11. The pressure group Greenpeace was formed in which year? 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976
12. What colour flag is flown on beaches that have been declared clean and free of pollution?
13. A leak from an American owned chemical factory in which city killed tens of thousands in 1984?
14. Britain's nuclear treatment centre is THORP at Sellafield, what does THORP stand for?
15. In 1962 Rachel Carson published Silent Spring, warning against the ecological dangers of what?

ANSWERS TO NEWSLETTER 15 QUIZZES

- 1 Aeolist (L) 2. Chiasmus (F) 3. Crepuscular (A) 4. Flahoolick (J) 5. Nebbish (C) 6. Nesh (G) 7. Oenophile (I) 8. Palimpsest (H) 9. Panglossian (M) 10. Paralipsis (N) 11. Persiflage (K) 12. Prolix (O) 13. Steatopygous (E) 14. Tmesis (B) 15. Ultracrepidarian (D)

ALCOHOLIC QUIZ ANSWERS- NEWSLETTER 15 QUIZZES

- 1) Marie Antoinette 2) The Stone Age 3) Arabic 4) Winston Churchill 5) 1935
6) Bacchus 7) Mead 8) France 9) 1850. 10) Medicines

ANIMALS-ANSWERS - NEWSLETTER 15 QUIZZES

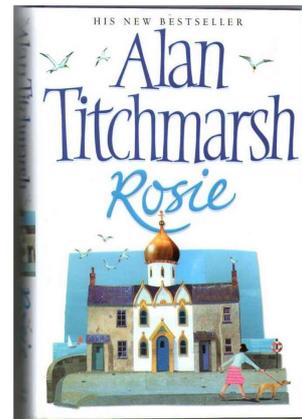
1 Killer Whale 2 Giraffe 3 Africa 4 A business anteater. 5 Duck-billed platypus and a spiny
6 Box jellyfish 7 Ten 8 Orangutan 9 Greenland Shark 10 Ostrich

Book Review

ROSIE by ALAN TITCHMARSH NO! Not a gardening Book.

In these days of Lockdown with older people feeling shut away and not seen - here we have a book full of fun and an 80+ year old lady full of life, adventure and positivity.

This book has members of one family coming across Rosie and their differing attitudes to her. We see angst, fun, frustration, worries and often wonder where the story is going next. Of course romance and misunderstandings come along the way often but this is light and quick: an enjoyable read in troubled days. The big picture and theme is NEVER STOP BEING YOU.

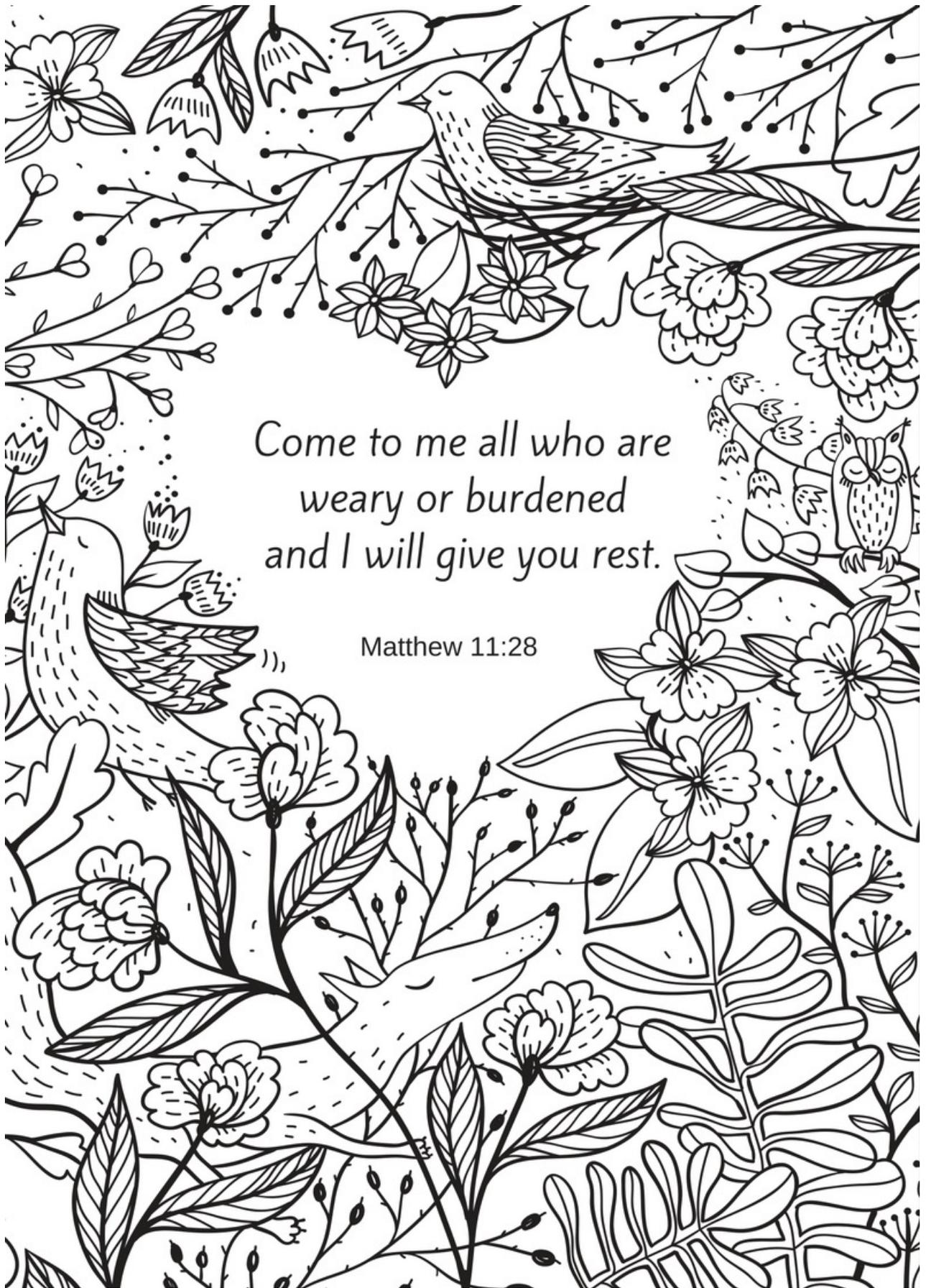


Any reference to gardening might be found in the chapter sub-titles' if you think hard. This is a light and fun read.

Ann Turnbull



Children's Colouring Based on 'Come to me all you who labour'



Come to me all who are
weary or burdened
and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28