

All Saints Alive

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT



“Give us this day our daily?”

Dear Friends,

I am sure you know the answer to fill in this blank space. And bread is, as ever, such a basic part of our diet that we tend to take it for granted, not even noticing the planting, growing and harvesting which remains necessary for shops and supermarkets to sell us flour and bread (*whoops, spoiler*) in an abundance of varieties.

What else do we have in our daily routine or possibly unstructured life? Our daily commute, perhaps. Our daily tablets, with their sustenance. Our daily paper, which influences our opinions and perceptions, our daily cuppa (or two), the daily news which so rarely seems to be good at present, our daily contact with loved ones and friends, our daily cleaning up and tidying – we could go on.

Each day we wake and we realise that there are many possibilities, and we can engage positively or become cynical that things will not improve in a hurry. So each day we have a mood, a feeling, and it is one which is likely to affect our dealings with others. People often call it the “daily grind”, which it can become – if we let it.

People with faith in God surely know that each day is a fresh gift. And our spirituality is what can transform our approach to daily life. It is a gift, and God is with us. Every day. Even in - or especially in - times of trouble. In fact, I believe that God is with us whether we know it or not; God is generous and all-embracing. But if we don't know it, or will not allow ourselves to recognise it, that divine presence can make relatively little difference. That is why a daily recognition of the great Giver can and does make a difference, whether through a simple

mindful meditation, or particular prayers, and use of the Bible.

It is Harvest Thanksgiving time, and I hope you will want to be in church to celebrate all that we are given in the natural order of life. For it reflects the love of God which we can feel day by day, for while life cannot be perfect in this world we all have so much to be thankful for. Celebrating with others can be very uplifting, and it connects us with a community of the faithful and the thankful. In living in reliance on the God-given nature of each day we can be transformed and lead onwards in our personal feelings about our lives, our relationships and our sharing positively and faithfully in the life of our family, our community and our world.



St Richard of Chichester composed a beautiful prayer about this, one which we could all make our own in thankfulness for all God's gifts and his daily presence :

“Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.”

Love, Jo.

Living God's Love – Meeting with the Bishop

6th November 2017

If you are a Christian, you would once have been a new disciple. Someone would have influenced and helped you in a way which didn't make you want to run away! We can all help others in finding faith, and Making New Disciples is an issue for our whole church. Bishop Michael will be leading a session on Monday 6th November, 7.45 for 8.00pm, at St Andrews' Centre. He will share his (and the Diocese's) ideas and invite us to share our concerns and identify opportunities.

The session is within an open Deanery Synod meeting, in fact it is virtually all of it. The Synod is a group of people from all local Anglican churches, which exists to enable and encourage ministry and mission. We know it is a weekday evening, but we would like to see a large number of our church members there, not least because with our different gifts we can all have different parts to play in the process of drawing others into the knowledge of the Love of God in Jesus Christ.

BBC 4 Reformation Season

BBC Four marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with new arts, music and drama commissions.

Reformation: The story of Martin Luther

Marking 500 years since the Reformation, this is the story of Martin Luther, the visionary reformer and one of the most important religious figures in history.

500 years ago a revolutionary priest changed the face of Christendom and the path of European civilization forever. Risking his life, academic reputation, facing damnation and purgatory in 1517, he pinned his inflammatory 95 Theses to the church door in the Catholic Church and the Western World would never be the same again. His name was Martin Luther.

Evensong: The story of England's Greatest Musical Legacy

Lucy Worsley investigates the story of the most remarkable creation from that tumultuous and violent era: Choral Evensong.

Henry VIII loved religious music, but he loved power more - when he instigated his English Reformation he dramatically split from the ancient Catholic Church that controlled much of his country. But in doing so set into motion changes that would fundamentally transform the religious music he loved.

Following Elizabeth I's personal story Lucy will recount how she and her two siblings were shaped by the changes their father instigated. Elizabeth witnessed both her radically puritan brother Edward bring Church music to the very brink of destruction and the terrifying reversals made by her sister Mary - which saw her thrown in the tower of London, forced to beg for her life.

When Elizabeth finally took power she was determined to find a religious compromise - she resurrected the protestant religion of her brother but kept the music of her beloved father - music that she too adored. And it was in the evocative service of choral Evensong that her ideas about religious music found their ultimate expression.

Books of the Reformation

Nina Ramirez tells the story of three books that defined this radical religious revolution in England. Tyndale's New Testament, The Book of Common Prayer and Foxe's Book of Martyrs are no longer commonly recognised titles. Yet, for over four hundred years, these works formed the backbone of British life. Their words shaped the English language; fuelled religious division; and sparked wars.

In this programme Nina discovers how the trio of texts had a powerful cumulative effect in forming the nation's protestant identity, the impact of which can be seen even today.