

St Denys Coronacle



4th September 2020

VICAR'S MESSAGE

Well, that was the Summer holidays! I don't think the holidays lived up to my expectations but then I'm not sure that I knew what my expectations were. I might have an idea of an 'ideal holiday' but fantasy and reality do not often align. And this year was always going to be different! However, when I wrote at the beginning of the summer I did not imagine that my wife and family would be caught up in the mad rush to get home from France (she had been visiting her parents) within the 36 hours' limit before quarantine became compulsory. Neither did I imagine that an easy relaxing day in the Lakes near Buttermere could turn so quickly until I witnessed a major cycle crash with serious life-limiting, if not life-threatening, injuries. Some 2 hours later the casualty was airlifted to hospital while I continued to give a statement to the police regarding how the accident had occurred. If we add to these incidents the generally wet and windy weather – this was not the summer I had expected!

But we move on into September and at the end of this month we celebrate the feast of St Michael and All Angels. The text I have chosen for this month comes from the readings for that feast – Jacob's dream of angels ascending and descending a ladder from heaven. The passage ends with Jacob's realisation that God is with him – that God is physically in that place. How easy it can be for us to forget that God is in this place – that God is with us! Times may be difficult, the future uncertain but God has not abandoned us – God is still with us.

I was reminded of this most poignantly on the lakeside fell as I administered first aid to the cycling casualty and awaited help in the form of paramedics. I asked her various questions both to ascertain concussion but also, if her condition did deteriorate, I would have more information to pass on to the professionals. I also identified myself by name and that I was a padre in the reserves. She responded to this with joy (well as much joy as you can show when in severe pain and drifting in and out of consciousness) saying that she was a Christian and asked me to pray for her. What a poignant reminder that even in the midst of major trauma and tragedy God is with us.

PRAYER

(Collect for William Wilberforce)

Everlasting God,
you have ordained and constituted the
ministries of angels and mortals in a
wonderful order:
grant that as your holy angels always
serve you in heaven,
so, at your command, they may help and
defend us on earth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

BIBLE READINGS

6th September : Trinity 13

Ezekiel 33.7-11, Psalm 119. 33 - 40,
Romans 13.8-end, Matthew 18.15-20

13th September : Trinity 14

Genesis 50.15-21, Psalm 103. [1-7], 8-13
Romans 14.1-12, Matthew 18.21-35

20th September: Trinity 15

Jonah 3.10-4.11, Psalm 145.1-8
Philippians 1.21-30, Matthew 20.1-16

27th September: St Michael and All Angels

Genesis 28.10-17, Psalm 103.19-22
Revelation 12.7-12, John 1.47-51

4th October: Trinity 16

Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25.1-8,
Philippians 2.1-13, Matthew 21.23-32

Bible verse

‘I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac... Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go...’ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “surely the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it.”

Genesis 28. 13, 15-16 (abr.)

Church Opening for Private Prayer Sessions

St Denys will continue to open during September but on Wednesdays only, between 10am and 12pm.

Stewards will continue to be present.

Over 650 churches and chapels open to visit near you

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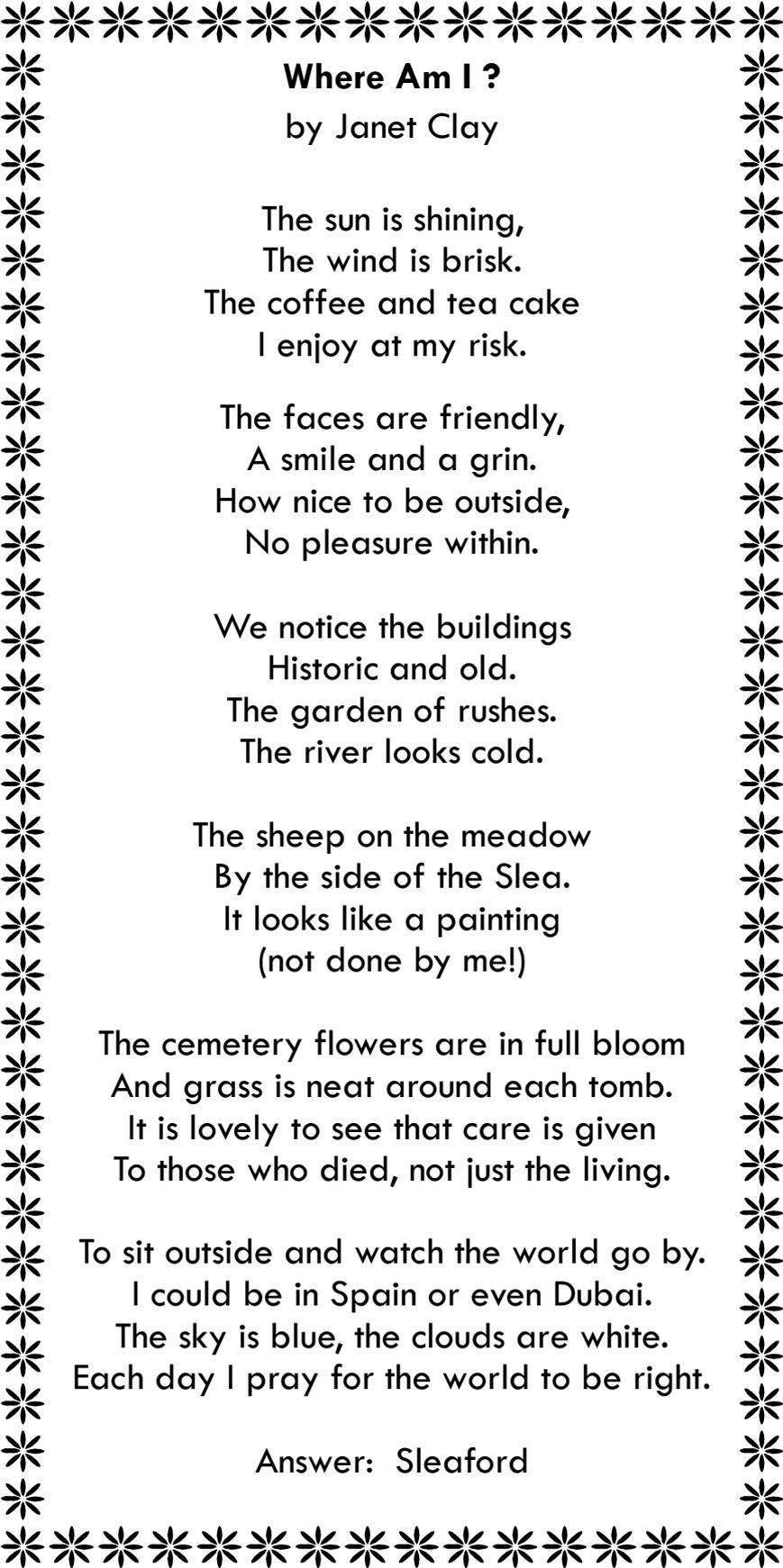
Saturday 12th September 2020

www.lincolnshirechurchestrust.org.uk

RIDE AND STRIDE 2020

Sponsor forms are available from Richard Bridgen or from www.lincolnshirechurchestrust.co.uk

Bottles of water will be available on the day. .



Where Am I ?

by Janet Clay

The sun is shining,
The wind is brisk.
The coffee and tea cake
I enjoy at my risk.

The faces are friendly,
A smile and a grin.
How nice to be outside,
No pleasure within.

We notice the buildings
Historic and old.
The garden of rushes.
The river looks cold.

The sheep on the meadow
By the side of the Slea.
It looks like a painting
(not done by me!)

The cemetery flowers are in full bloom
And grass is neat around each tomb.
It is lovely to see that care is given
To those who died, not just the living.

To sit outside and watch the world go by.
I could be in Spain or even Dubai.
The sky is blue, the clouds are white.
Each day I pray for the world to be right.

Answer: Sleaford

PARISH OFFICE Re-opening

During September, the Parish Office will be open for parish business on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9.30am and 11.30am. Visitors will need to follow instructions given please. Face coverings to be worn.

MESSAGE FROM NAOMI

Thank you to everyone who has been praying about our house search, for the past year. We now have a flat near to my new job in the South West of England! I have really enjoyed being part of St Denys for the 11 years we have lived in the Sleaford area. I will miss the many conversations and moments of laughter that I have shared with you all, your friendships have been a blessing and of great value to me.

We moved on the 12th August 2020, to start the next chapter of the adventure God has in store for us)

With kind regards Naomi (and Luke)

STAMPS!

Please keep saving used stamps for the Leprosy Mission. As there is limited access to church just now, they can be received at 4 Stephens Way or collected. Please leave a message on the Parish Office answer phone 413607. Last year £43,683 was raised nationally from donated stamps. Thank you for all previous donations.

ANOTHER 'LOST' VICAR OF SLEAFORD?

The following snippets have come my way:

- * Hugh Ches[e]nall" Dean of he Collegiate Church of Astley, Warwickshire, 1474-1476.
- * Sir Hugh Ches[e]nall: founder of Chesenall's Charity, Clifford Chambers, Warwickshire, 1494.
- * Hugh Ches[e]nall, "Parson of Sleaford" - will proved 1494. One and the same person? Information, please.

Douglas Hoare

LEBANON APPEAL

Lent boxes - £354.72, Church collection £329.50,
Individual donation £100, **Total £784.22**
Donation from New Life **£250.00**

Last Saturday Rachel and I had a video meeting with four of the Embrace staff, some other volunteers and most importantly two of our partners in the Holy Land.

The first was Father Emmanuel from our partnership in Iraq where we are working to bring Christian families back home. These families fled from Iraq during the war when their towns and villages were totally destroyed by so-called Islamic State. They fled to Syria, only to then face the war there and then fled to Lebanon. Our Scottish Regional Manager, Mark Calder, ran fourteen marathons in twelve months, a total of over 1700 miles to raise money for this cause. Some of our congregation sponsored Mark, and he thanks you for that. He raised a total of £60,000.00.

Father Emmanuel told us that, with our help they have now built just over fourteen hundred homes and families are living in them and starting to rebuild their lives. There is much more to be done. Father Emmanuel also reminded us that Iraq is part of the Holy Land, Abraham came from there.

In the afternoon we spoke with Alia Abboud from Beirut.

Alia works with The Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development, a partnership which I spent a day with three years ago. They are responsible for helping Christian Churches mostly dealing with the half a million refugees who are in Lebanon. I went with them to visit two churches in the Bekaa Valley near the Syrian border and to visit the tent schools which Embrace have erected and equipped.

Alia told us that the explosion has killed 200 people, but work is still going on to clear rubble, more may be found.

300,000 have been made homeless of which 80,000 are children. Lebanon is currently back in lockdown because of Covid 19.

Alia told us that one of the medical centres which Embrace sponsors in Bourj Hammoud, one of Beirut's poorest areas, has been destroyed. Once again, I spent a morning with mothers and babies at this wonderful centre and I feel upset at what has happened. We must get this centre up and running again as soon as possible.

All of our projects have damage, but fortunately most only have doors and windows blown out. We support twelve partnerships in Lebanon and so far I have spent time in nine of them.

Embrace thank you all so much for the support you have given them now and over the past years.

Minyon Prescott

JACOBS' LADDER by DAVID BIRKS



Biblical Abraham's grandson Jacob journeyed from Beersheba through Canaan to Haran. At sundown he camped at Luz; then, shielded by a protective boulder, fell asleep. Symbolically in dream he envisioned a stairway elevating to heaven, it was populated by angels advancing up and down into God's domain. His 'spirit guide' advised that this place of repose was now his freehold, available for transferral on to descendants. Jacob awoke fearful; yet recognising this innovative possibility said: - "Surely the Lord is here in this awesome place, it's nought but the house of God, a gateway to heaven!" Subsequently he anointed the protective stone with olive oil, identifying it as a memorial pillar upon this now holy ground. He renamed it "El Bethel" (the house of God).

Such narrative defies a cynical opinion voiced by 20th century theorist Albert Camus; who said "Humans are creatures who want to convince themselves that personal existence isn't accidental, or absurd." Evolving from that thinking and comparable philosophies, most graduating scientists adopt 'Insider partiality' to what others call the 'Reductionist Stance'. This induces them to crudely affirm that people are just an instinctive matrix of neurons, (i.e. atoms, nerve cells and molecules): and that all notions about the existence of souls, spirit and God are ridiculous. So, to sustain praiseworthy professional eminence they routinely limit Science by perpetuating those views. But surely they're wrong, because in extremis that position aids immorality and disparages the concept of an evil protagonist!

Truly, there's appreciably more to humanity than neurons etc. Really we're an evolving complex web, ever remarkably greater than the sum of our components. But scientists repeatedly ignore that, generally accepting only tightly focused outcomes of corporate, or publicly funded experimental tests as true. As such they neglect exceptional exploration in favour of proving pictured expectations. So because 'love' cannot be lab tested, it's regarded as an unwelcome sideshow, obstructing the way of authority: their favoured goal! We should challenge that situation, because it constrains wider scientific enquiry. Ultimate reality requires our spirit in social relationships to be free; not politically bounded by some utopian 'theory of everything'. There shouldn't be such a concept, because each person's views of reality differ somewhat from others'. Through that feature we learn and become able to achieve potential realms hitherto thought inconceivable.

FUTURE PUBLICATIONS

The next copy of the Coronacle will be published on the
2nd October.

Sleaford Parish Office

www.sleafordparishchurch.co.uk

office.stdenys1@btconnect.com

Parish Office - 01529 413607

Rev'd Philip Johnson - 01529 304348

Twitter: Sleaford Vicar @ VicarSleaford

Facebook: Sleaford Parish Church