

The Vicarage,
Millans Park,
Ambleside
18th Feb. 2021

Greetings,

So now we are in Lent – 40 days and 40 nights to Holy week; the week of Palm Sunday, Good Friday and then leading to Easter Sunday. The central most important week that Christians commemorate the world over.

One of the joys of lockdown for me is that with less evening meetings I get to watch the nature and travel programmes I enjoy. I know that it is observing spectacles and events from the outside only. I know that the only way to really get to understand what is happening is to be there and truly experience them. You need to experience not just with your eyes and ears but with your skin, the searing heat of the desert, the ice cold of the artic, the humidity of the Tropical jungle. You need to smell the rich spices of the East and the muskiness of the Ganges water to really 'be' there. It is the same with the physical manifestations of our culture and rituals – you have to be totally immersed in them, talk to people who believe that what they are doing has significance, sense the wonder and the nuance of events to really understand what these events 'mean'.

It has made me think of those who observe what we do in church or even on zoom. What do they make of what we do? Does it seem strange and alien – difficult to understand – can coffee really be that important (it can!) or do they see the joy of just being together and of a shared faith that holds us together....I hope so. If there is anything that you see happening that you are curious about or that feels strange or different – this is not a TV documentary – ring us up and ask.

Speaking of things that we do not understand... I was flawed the other day by being asked if the church was going to be letting out Fox How. Please can I assure everyone the church does not have this building.

Something else you may see and needs a bit of explanation we will be getting a Mobile Testing Unit at Rothay Holme HGV/PSV Park as from Tuesday 23rd February 2021 with a drive-through MTU to be deployed to the site on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10.00-15.00 on an ongoing basis. Two lockable portable toilets will be located on site for sole use by the MTU teams. It will consist of an awning and temporary buildings. It will be great not to travel a long way if you are feeling unwell with Covid symptoms.

If you want a little extra help with spending time in Lent thinking things through the Diocese has provided materials via Carlisle Diocese Website for Lent. Bishop Emma who is a fantastic preacher has published some thought in the form of sermons and there are Bible Studies and reflections to use for your own time with God. We are delighted that Bishop Emma will be preaching on our zoom service on 7th March.

So have a good week

God bless

Beverley