



St Mary the Virgin Baldock



“Building with Christ”

Rector's Blog – day 11

Dear Friends

Some words from Genesis chapter 9

8Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ 12God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

As I was walking down Whitehorse Street yesterday I was accosted by a woman who wanted to know if the church was going to have a large rainbow on its tower.

I rather like the proliferation of rainbows that have been appearing over the last week or so in people's windows. Many of them seem to be a sign of support for the NHS. However the woman on Whitehorse St implied that the main purpose was to encourage us to be hopeful. She ended her suggestion by saying 'Be happy'. I don't know if she caught me off guard but she seemed to be effortlessly implying, I felt, that the Church would be altogether happier if we followed her advice.

I found myself thinking that I would like a rainbow to go round the arch of the South Porch entrance but only if it had a cross at one end and an empty tomb at the other.

Because the truth is that rainbows in themselves don't give much hope. The only secure hope on which we can truly rely comes through the death and resurrection of the Son of God. God's present of love to the world. The rainbow at the end of the story of Noah is a promise of God's commitment to his creation. Let's nurture that and remember that his commitment points to Jesus who has a rather more meaningful message than 'Be Happy'!

This is one of my favourite poems by George Herbert

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back
 Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
 If I lacked any thing.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:
 Love said, You shall be he.



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I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.

And this is a good prayer to say before going to sleep:

God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems, and our unfilled hopes,
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.
To your love and protection
we commit each other and all those we love,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Church of South India

If you would like to join us for Zoom Evening prayer today (Thursday) it is at 7pm. Here is the link.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/281627201?pwd=OVF3Zkw0aUZhZnZUVEhQeHVCQzFwZz09>

Meeting ID: 281 627 201

Password: 012131

Every blessing

Andrew