



St Mary the Virgin Baldock



“Building with Christ”

Rector's Blog – day 31

Dear Friends

Luke 11: 29, 30, 32

29When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, ‘This generation is an evil generation; it asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. 30For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be to this generation. 32The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgement with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here!

Gentle Jesus, meek and mild? Not a bit of it! You may remember from a couple of days ago that we were making the point that the story of Jonah implies that God goes to extraordinary lengths to make sure we hear his voice, whether it be a call to repent and change our priorities or to be assured of his love and presence. Jesus was not slow to draw analogies with the people of Nineveh, who were bitter enemies of the Jews and the people of Israel. The effect would have been similar to shouting 'Come on you Spurs' wearing a blue stripy scarf in the Gunners crowd at the Emirates Stadium just after they had scored a goal against Arsenal. Put like that it's not surprising he was crucified. But then, self-preservation was never his strong point!

The reason I love the Book of Jonah is that it does seem to be a Gospel in miniature, upholding longsuffering love and forgiveness and the importance of second chances and hope against a background of human self-interest and cowardice and stereotyping. This, of course is also the background to St Luke's Gospel where our bible verses come from today.

Faced with the threat of Corona, and being challenged about what the virus might be implying about our self-absorbed and self-righteous culture we can either retreat in silent despair or proclaim what we believe to be the truth in the Christian hope that God is bigger than viruses and human sin and even climate change and can overcome them all to bring a renewal of life and relationships on earth. A new beginning! A new creation! What do you think Jesus would have to say about life and society in Britain in 2020? Which do you think the Church should be doing? And do you think people will listen?

Today's prayer

Love never fails

Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.

Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far.

Love compels us to give and act as one.

Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together more tightly than ever before.

As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation and around the world – we are united as one family.

So, let us pause and find a moment of peace, as we lift up our hearts together in prayer.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The first link is to a setting of 'Lead me lord' by Will Todd which you could either use as a prayer for guidance or for support, (depending on where you are!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTgh3zwgaMg>



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If you would like to join us for Evening Prayer today (Friday) it is at 5.00pm

The link is

Topic: Friday Evening Prayer via Zoom

Time: May 1, 2020 17:00 London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71606308626?pwd=MHIHdzIzVFNmcm3BjSlJuTlB1Vm0yUT09>

Meeting ID: 716 0630 8626

Password: 1DPNNC

If you would like to join us for Evening Prayer on Saturday it is at 5.00pm

The link is

Topic: Zoom Evening Prayer on Saturday

Time: May 2, 2020 05:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89844666086?pwd=UHhxT0hLWHNDaUFVvVBCNHdweEhFZz09>

Meeting ID: 898 4466 6086

Password: 018159

The link for worship on Sunday at 9.30am (Morning Worship) and 6pm (Evening Prayer) will be in the pewsheets coming out tomorrow (Saturday).

Every blessing

Andrew