



# St Mary the Virgin Baldock



*“Building with Christ”*

## Rector’s Blog – day 52

Dear Friends

Hebrews 2: 6 - 9

*‘What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
or mortals, that you care for them?’*

*7You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned them with glory and honour,  
8subjecting all things under their feet.’*

*Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, 9but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

This is the writer from the letter to the Hebrews quoting Psalm 8. From this, we will say Psalm 8 every Wednesday in Morning Prayer until we get to All Saints’ Day. In the whole of Common Worship, our service book, it is the only psalm which is printed in two versions. The first version has the first two lines printed above: *What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?* The second is singular and different, pointing to one human being: *What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you seek him out?*

I used to think that this was evidence of a battle between the gender inclusive section of the planning committee and the traditionalists, but I was wrong. In actual fact it is far more subtle and far more important. We are human beings, created in the image of God, and, following the purpose given to Adam and Eve, tasked with the role of caring for the world. The Psalm says, *‘you have crowned them with glory and honour, subjecting all things under their feet.’* This was so we might care for the world effectively. However we have behaved like a tyrant, a cruel ruler, rather than a loving one, thinking only of our own ends and comfort and creation is impoverished as a result. Death is the natural result. Death of species. Death of a creative relationship between humans and the world, and ultimately death of hope.

However the second translation, the less inclusive one is actually more accurate. It is singular rather than plural all the way through and both Jews and Christians have interpreted it as referring to the Messiah., for Christians, this is Jesus Christ of course. God becoming a human being, the Son of man, in order to remove the sting of death for us, through his own death and resurrection, the ultimate example of what a good King should be like. And Jesus has forged away ahead of us to become a new King in a new creation, so we all, and all creation have a new hope of being redeemed into that new creation, the Kingdom of God. Heaven. When we will be ruling the new creation once again, but this time in sympathy with it. A benign and loving ruler. Creation will flourish and we will have control.

By turning to face Christ now, and acknowledging him as our ruler, we have a foretaste of this. Glimpses of heaven on earth, as he redeems our fallen human nature, and restores our self-esteem. We are loved. We are valuable. We are not a failure (however much we might feel like one)! So if you think there are areas of your life where you are out of control, and during the weeks of isolation, these may have become startlingly clear, remember that this is part of the human fallen condition because we are generally not very good at the moment when we have full control. The Christian answer to this conundrum comes out of the two different translations of Psalm 8, and the choice that the writer to the Hebrews uses. Just hand your lack of control to the King, in hope and trust, and if you have done that, allow him to take full control.

But this comes with a health warning! It usually involves sacrifice and some change in behaviour on our part, to get the relationship with whatever it is that we are feeling out of control about, back into a more positive dynamic relationship. Jesus works miracles. We just have to let him!

### **A prayer for peace in times of trouble**

*Lord, give Your people Your peace that we may shine brightly in a dark world.*

*Grant us the courage to live faithfully even in the midst of hard times.*

*Let our fear of You be the beginning of wisdom rather than allowing the fear of the world to drive our actions.*

*Help us to embrace our heavenly citizenship and live strangely in the midst of a world that needs to know You.*



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*Show Your mercy and heal those who are suffering in Your fallen creation.  
Most of all Lord, come. Restore the world You have made and make all things new.  
We pray that Your will would be done. Amen.*

This well known hymn sums up most of what I've been saying. Apologies if I've chosen a tune you don't like!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fF15l8v\\_0UY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fF15l8v_0UY)

At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him  
king of glory now;  
'tis the Father's pleasure  
we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning  
was the mighty word.

At his voice creation  
sprang at once to sight,  
all the angels' faces,  
all the hosts of light,  
thrones and dominations,  
stars upon their way,  
all the heavenly orders,  
in their great array.

Humbled for a season,  
to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners  
unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it  
spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious,  
when from death he passed:

Bore it up triumphant  
with its human light,  
through all ranks of creatures,  
to the central height,

to the throne of Godhead,  
to the Father's breast;  
filled it with the glory  
of that perfect rest.

All creation name him,  
with love as strong as death,  
but with awe and wonder  
and with bated breath:  
he is God the Saviour,  
he is Christ the Lord,  
ever to be worshipped,  
trusted, and adored.

In your hearts enthrone him;  
there let him subdue  
all that is not holy,  
all that is not true:  
crown him as your captain  
in temptation's hour;  
let his will enfold you  
in its light and power.

Truly, this Lord Jesus  
shall return again,  
with his Father's glory,  
with his angel train;  
for all wreaths of empire  
meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him  
King of glory now.

### **The times for Evening Prayer for the rest of the week are**

Tuesday 4.30pm

Wednesday 5.00pm

Thursday 4.30pm

Friday 5.00pm

Saturday 5.00pm

Sunday Morning Worship and 9.30am, Messy Zoom at 11am and Evening Prayer at 6.00pm (Details of how to join are in the pewsheets coming out on Saturday)

Every blessing

Andrew



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