



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale



Trinity 11

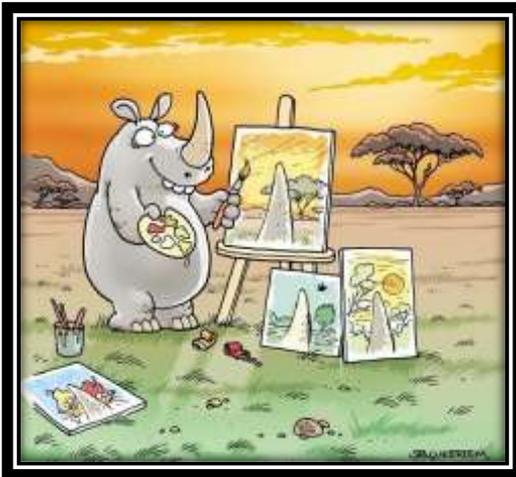
'Church in the Home'

Edition 23

Sunday August 23rd– Saturday August 30th

From the Vicarage

Are we seeing the truth?



Perspective is a very individual thing for we all see and experience the world through our own version of it. It affects the way in which we live and respond to life.

As a child I was always fascinated with the idea of flight and wondered what the world would look like viewing it from above. I was 21 before I experienced the exhilaration and wonderful sense of freedom that flying brings; I was at the controls of a 4 seater single engine aircraft flying over Scarborough Castle when I saw the world from a very different perspective.

My most significant change of perspective came 12 months later as a postgraduate student. Something was happening to many of the University friends I had surrounded myself with for four years. They began to speak of a personal encounter with God; an understanding and acceptance of who Jesus was, why he came and what he had done. I could see a change in their lives that was marked with a joy and a sense of freedom and purpose that I knew I didn't have and that I certainly longed for. They spoke of seeing the world differently.

When Jesus asks the question '*what is the world saying about who I am*', the disciples reply that the consensus is that he is a very good and holy man. Napoleon once gave his verdict on that question: "*I know men, and Jesus Christ is more than a man*". The common world view or perspective can often prevent us from seeing what is really there; the truth. There is a wonderful reality of experience that lies beyond what we can immediately see but our vision must not be obstructed. As I began to read the Bible seeking for understanding as to what was happening to my friends, I asked God to help me to see the truth. He did. I recognised who Jesus is, placed my life in his hands and became a Christian. My perspective changed and continues to do so every day as I learn more about Him and experience the joy of living life with God.

In our reflection this week Mike looks at that question: '**Who do you say that I am?**' It is a personal question from Jesus to Peter and indeed to each and every one of us and it requires a personal response.

I wonder what obstructions there might be in our lives that are preventing us from seeing the world from God's perspective?

Rev. Mike



Seek ye first

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1Y8Naj3RFk>



In Christ Jesus we are saved, whilst we walk in the midst of trouble he keeps us safe, he lifts us up and is our strength when we are weak. The Isaiah Reading this week struck me that our success is in our endeavours to follow the example of Christ; it speaks of pursuing righteousness and seeking the Lord. It is a continuing journey and we are not there yet. There may be others for whom the battle is lost temporarily and those are people we need to support and encourage until they turn their faces back to God.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, alleluia

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto
you
Allelu, alleluia

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God
Allelu, alleluia

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God
Allelu, alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you
Allelu, alleluia

Sing Praise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ks86XIVKaB8>

I felt uplifted reading this Psalm, it says "all the kings of the earth will praise you". We should hold nothing back, sing praise with our whole heart. O Lord, your love endures forever, what a message of joy, Hallelujah.

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever

Sing praise, sing praise

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God we will carry on
His love endures forever

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise [2x]

Sing praise, sing praise [2x]

Sunday Aug 23rd Bible Readings:



Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

Click on this site, type in the reading you want and then listen to David Suchet read it to you.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/Gen.1>

Reflection

It's a time of great questioning. In the middle of a pandemic, a time of recession, job losses, and challenging exam results, many people are asking questions - why now / why me? Watching the news or the coronavirus briefings, many people's questions will have a political slant.

Jeremiah, living in Jerusalem around 580 BC along with many of the other inhabitants, would have been justified in asking questions – why now / why me? There was total devastation when Babylonian forces, over a period of 14 years, overthrew Jerusalem, destroyed the temple and took thousands of people into exile. They created total ruin in both the city and people's lives. Many of the questions would have been political – criticizing the succession of kings, the Babylonians and their allied forces.

In what has been described as possibly the darkest book in the bible, Jeremiah, whilst lamenting on the downfall and destruction of Jerusalem, also chooses to reflect on God's goodness. It was an act of will on his part – to remember the faithfulness of God – *“But this I bring to mind and therefore I have hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is their faithfulness”*. *Lamentations (chapter 3 v 21- 23)*. These will be familiar verses because we use them in the service of Morning Prayer.

Jesus asked important questions of the disciples. Whilst walking to Caesarea Philippi in the north of the region of Galilee he asked them ‘Who do people say that I am?’ The answers the disciples gave were not dissimilar to many answers we might receive today - a good man / a good teacher / a prophet – one of many. But when the question was addressed specifically to them, Peter answered, showing great God-given insight, *‘You are the Messiah, Son of the living God’*. There may have been a political element to his thinking because many Jews of the day expected the Messiah to save them by overthrowing the occupying Roman forces. But his answer did reflect the divine nature of Jesus and instead of being a prophet from the past he was indeed the Saviour that the prophets had been writing about. (Jeremiah 23 v 5) As the disciples listened more to what Jesus said about his purpose and as they witnessed his crucifixion and resurrection, they gradually came to understand the full salvation plan that God was providing in Jesus.

In the early days of the church, when Peter and John stood in front of the Sanhedrin and defended their case, they said *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” Acts 4 12*. When Paul and Silas answered the Jailer in Philippi, they said, *‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved’ Acts 16 v 31*. Our Romans reading two weeks ago included the words, *‘... if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.’ Romans 10:9*

Our commitment to God and acceptance of God's grace – his undeserved love and forgiveness, is a deliberate act. It's a personal decision. Like Jeremiah, it's an act of the will. A few years ago, we used these words from Romans as a memory verse at King's Club. One small child raised his hand and asked the question – ‘saved from what?’ How would you answer that question?

Jesus answered it in several of the end times parables. He talks about judgement and we see that it is impossible for us, in our sinful state, trusting in our own righteousness, to stand before a holy God. But Jesus also talked about God's love for us and how he provided a way into his kingdom. At the cross of Jesus, God's love and justice meet, something early apostles were clear on. Paul writes to Timothy *‘For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.’ 1 Tim 2 v 5*. John also explains this when he relates the story of Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus. For those who trust in Jesus (he says - *born again* or *born of the Spirit*) God's justice has already been satisfied and his love demonstrated. (Read the description of this encounter in John chapter 3.)

We have confidence in our salvation because it's not our own doing. It is totally dependent on what Jesus did on the cross and the forgiveness that God offers. This is the Gospel – the good news that Paul was proclaiming and defending in the letter he wrote to the Galatian churches and begging them to hold onto – that salvation is only available as I accept that Jesus died for me. There is nothing else I can do or need to do.

Amongst all the questioning that is going on in the world today, probably the most important question is – 'Who do you say Jesus is?'

Mike Hirst



Prayers



Heavenly Father we thank you that you are always the same, you are faithful, loving and merciful to each of us. We thank you for the joy and privilege of having a relationship with you and the freedom to communicate with you anytime.

We pray for your church, the body of Christ, throughout the world. For Bishops and priests and all congregations. Thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit to lead and guide your people day by day.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We bring before you all who need your help and guidance. During this unusual year you have sustained us, given us strength and encouragement and the will to reach out to others with your love. Help us to continue trusting in You. We pray for this Benefice and thank you for the joy of worshipping together again. We pray for Dave and Sarah and for our PCCs, and those still worshipping at home week by week.

We speak your words of blessing over our community, homes and families, businesses and workplaces, and those looking after visitors to the Dales, and ask that each may be upheld and kept safe and prosper. We pray for all who are unwell and we proclaim your healing power over them in the name of Jesus. We ask for your comfort and strength for those who are recently bereaved, surround them and their loved ones with your presence.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father we remember our country before you, The Queen and her family, the Prime Minister and government. May your wisdom and guidance direct them in all their talks and decisions in every area of our national life, and in plans to keep us all safe.

We pray for young people who have recently received exam results, and those who are anxious about making plans for their careers.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father we thank you for the beautiful world you created. We pray for the leaders of every nation, their governments and people. May your guidance and direction be listened to and acted upon. Help us all to be thoughtful of others and willing to proclaim your Good News of Salvation for all mankind, in what we say and do.

Merciful Father, Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Margaret Iveson

...This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday ...

Sunday Aug 23rd
Please join us for
We hope that you
can join with us this
Sunday.



Visit our website
www.upperwensleydalechurch.co.uk

or our FaceBook page :
[upperwensleydalechurch-cofe](https://www.facebook.com/upperwensleydalechurch-cofe)



Please wear a
face covering

Sunday 23rd August

St Mary & St John's Hardraw -9.00am Morning Prayer

St Oswald's Askrigg at 10.30am Holy Communion

St Margaret's Hawes at 2.30pm Holy Communion

St Matthew's Stalling Busk 4.00pm Evening Prayer



BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY



August 30th: We hoped that we might be able to meet together for an outdoor service on the Bank Holiday weekend, but unfortunately due to the current guidelines surrounding safety and the virus, this is not going to be possible. Services will continue at the usual time on that day if you're able to join with us.

TV Radio

Worship on the BBC:

Tune into some of the services on TV and Radio.

Sunday: Radio 4 Sunday Worship 8:10 – 8:50am

with Anna Magnusson and poet Pdraig O Tuama

Radio 3 Choral Evensong 3:00 – 4pm Live from St Martin-in-the-Fields

Wed: Radio 3 Choral Evensong 3.30-4.30pm Live from St Martin-in-the-Fields

Sunday: BBC1 Songs of praise 1:15-1:50pm with Kate Bottley celebrating
150 years of the Salvation Army





**Temporary Pattern of Services
August – September 2020**



Date	Harddraw 9am	Askrigg 10:30am	Hawes 2:30pm	Stalling Busk 4pm
23 rd August	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
30 th August	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
6 th Sep	‘The Gathering’ ONLINE ONLY - Big Yorkshire Harvest Community involvement. 8:30 HC in Askrigg			
13 th Sep	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer	Holy Communion
20 th Sep	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	
27 th Sep	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer