



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale

News Sheet: 7th – 13th March



Shaking it Up

Week 3

Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2: 13-22

This passage from John is one of the earliest I can remember from my Sunday School days. Sitting cross-legged on the dusty hard church hall floor, I can still remember being intrigued by this angry Jesus. It seemed to me that this was quite a contrast to all other bible stories I had been told and I certainly enjoyed drawing a picture of the scene. Why is this story included in John's gospel? On one level, it could simply be about Jesus getting angry – that was certainly the message I took from it as a 6-year-old child.

Today anger is often seen as a bad thing, but it is just a natural emotion, like happiness or fear. We should feel righteous anger and indignation at social injustice and inequality – on issues like homelessness and abuse - but this needs to be tempered with an understanding on how we should deal appropriately with that anger. For example, we need to remember judgement and justice belong solely to God and although the temptation may be to hit out, in doing so we bring judgement on ourselves. Nevertheless, we have a duty however, to speak out about wickedness and injustice, but anger, borne out of pride or shame, should have no place in our lives.

As an adult, I think there is much more to this story than just anger. Let's think about the temple for a moment. Jesus had been brought up visiting the temple and it was very common for the money changers and stall holders to be present; so, what was different on that day? I believe that Jesus wanted to shake things up a bit and make people really see and re-evaluate what was in front of them. How often do we walk past scenes and situations without really seeing them? In the same way, we carry on doing things in our lives as if we are on autopilot, without actually being aware of how, why and what we are doing and even the impact that those actions may have on others. By making a public display, Jesus was creating a talking point to help others to really think about whether this use of the temple was within the law or even morally acceptable. There are many other examples of Jesus doing this in the bible – think about his encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well – those who saw or heard it will have had many talking points, not least that a Jewish man was interacting with a Samaritan, who was also a woman, and one with a dubious moral character!

In our own lives, many of us are guilty of living lives on autopilot. We get ourselves into a comfortable rut and are content to stay in it because it is comfortable and familiar. When we do this, we are shortchanging not only God, but ourselves and those around us, because we are not living life in all its fullness but going through the motions. And this links back to the moneychangers and the animals in the temple – they were not the problem – what was wrong were the hearts of those who visited the temple and just accepted them as having a right to be there.

So, what do we have in our lives that we have just accepted, but really shouldn't be there? Often, we forget that we are God's creation, and we live in His presence. There are few positives in this pandemic, but one is that most of us have a little more time on our hands. I would suggest that this may be a good time to look at the animals and moneychangers that have slipped unnoticed into your life – that is to say have a spiritual spring clean and look how you can overturn some of the tables that are barriers to your spiritual growth and mental wellbeing.

God is there to help us with this – this is not about trying to be something we are not, just about being the best version of us that we can.

Stephanie Durrant



Services For Sunday 7th March



10:30am: A service of **Morning Prayer**

Streamed on our FaceBook page and website.
The service was recorded by Stephanie Durrant.



Upper Wensleydale Church – CofE Website: www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/services

4:00pm: A service of **Evening Prayer**

Held in our telephone meeting room.

It's easy to join in and many have been drawing comfort and strength by doing so.

The service will last for approx. 25 mins.

As 4pm approaches call this number: **03330 164757** you will then be asked to enter the Room Number: **893 277 00#** and the PIN: **2772#**



LOOK Up in Lent



ZOOM! in and share a cup of Coffee or Tea with friends during the weeks of Lent. We will be sharing things that make us smile or bring us joy. **Next zoom meeting is Wednesday 10th March at 11:00am**

To join in, simply click the link below or copy and paste it into your browser

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74534391814?pwd=K2FLQ0ZWVldtWSt1TDAyYmRpciAvUT09>

Meeting ID: 745 3439 1814 Passcode: T8hteS

Lent Study
with Rev
Vera

The next Zoom group to study the First Epistle of Peter is on **Thursday 11th March 4.30 - 5.20pm**, Ch 2v18-3v12 - Relationships in society. If you are interested please contact Vera and she will provide you with the details you need to join the Zoom group. vera@vsinton.co.uk **666948**



Worship on the BBC Sun 7th March

Radio 4 Sunday Worship 8:10 – 8:50am Rev Canon Jutta Brueck preaches on the biblical call to care for children

Radio 3 Choral Evensong 3:00 – 4pm from Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford

BBC 1 Lent Worship 11.00 -11.30 with Rev Kate Bottley from All Saints Church, Hale Barnes

BBC 2 Songs of Praise 1:15-1:50pm – Katherine Jenkins reflects on Personal Prayer

