

Biblical Floods?

It is often said that the USA does everything bigger than the rest of the world, and their recent 'weather event' is no exception. I'm sure that we have all been struck by the sheer awfulness of recent flooding events in Texas. In the last month, there has also been a landslide in Switzerland, a typhoon (which killed 12 people) in Macau, China, floods in India, Nepal and Bangladesh (claiming 800 lives), an earthquake in Ischia (off the coast of Italy), wildfires in central Portugal, trapping 2000 people, further flooding in New Orleans, raging heat-waves in the Middle East, mudslides in Sierra Leone (where hundreds of people are feared dead and may never be recovered), and an earthquake in China, which has killed as many as 100 people.

All of the above-listed events happened in August 2017. In just one month. What are we to make of all this upheaval? Are there divine forces at work? Or even some kind of divine judgement taking place?

The fact that we know about all these events is partly a feature of our modern, interconnected world. (I copied the above list from a newspaper's website). It is in fact quite hard to get any factual information about whether the frequency of such natural disasters is increasing, or not. (It partly depends on how a natural disaster is measured - and how competent past reporting of such events has been). It is, however, undeniably true that we now have the ability to affect our environment in very real and measurable ways...no doubt resulting in at least some of the recent events we've seen (or affecting their severity).

Another undeniable truth is that we human beings *could* take many steps to protect ourselves. We could, for example, refuse to allow the building of sub-standard homes in earthquake zones. We *could* take practical steps to ensure that houses are not built on flood-plains, or that houses built in the known path of occasionally hurricanes are *designed* to withstand the force of wind which we *know* must come. But sadly, the profit-motive that underlies so much of human interaction drives us again and again to build poor quality housing, in stupid places, and to cross our fingers that trouble may not come.

In the longer-term, we *could* decide to radically alter the ways in which our energy is provided. We have the *technology* to provide solar, wind, wave, and hydro-power. But we lack the political will.

Perhaps there is, after all, an element of divine judgment at work in current world events. The great Genesis Story paints a picture of a world given to 'the Man' to 'take care of'. But the Man's ancestors have forgotten that most basic instruction in favour of maximising profits at the expense of the poorest people. I don't suggest that God *sends* the disasters that the world is experiencing; we've done that to ourselves. God has warned us, though, of what the effects of our behaviour would be.

Canon Tom

Women's Fellowship

From 2pm *this coming Tuesday* (and then on each first Tuesday of the month), Curate Vickie will be leading our new Women's Fellowship. Different from the existing 'Ladies Group' (which has a more purely social focus) the Women's Fellowship is aimed at women who are looking for good quality, interesting speakers and fellowship and (short) worship with other like-minded ladies. Speakers are being arranged on a wide range of topics - including history, politics, charities, the arts and (of course!) religion. Mini-concerts, might also feature from time to time. Our first meeting will feature Canon Tom talking about how he *became* a Canon, in West Africa - complete with slides and stories from his 'African Adventures'. Do let Vickie know if you plan to come (to help with catering numbers).

Watch this space for news of the new Men's Fellowship....coming soon!

ST FAITH'S TOWN FAIR
9 September
10am-2pm

Local produce stalls,
Barbeque, Games
Tearoom in Church,
Exhibitions,
Trips up the Tower
and much more...

Grand Draw
Buy your tickets
from the
Parish Office,
or from
Sandra Haggan
02392455161
First prize £200



We are in need of donations of the following:

**Bric- a- brac, Bottles
(Many bottles of all sorts, please),
Tombola, stall items,
plants, books,
cakes, cakes and more cakes!**

Any donations can be left at the Parish Office

If you could help on the day, or would like to run a stall, please see Sandra or Clare.

Thank you!

RIDE AND STRIDE

Saturday 9 September is also the day for Ride and Stride!

It's the Town Fair Day too, but please support the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust .

Welcomers to St Faith's are wanted between 10am and 6pm. Walkers and cyclists from our congregation are needed to be sponsored to visit local churches; do join in the fun!

There is a notice in the Church and Hilary Deadman would be pleased to give you further details.

Forthcoming SERVICES

SUNDAY 3 September Trinity 12

8.00 am COMMUNION

PresidentRev'd Richard Acworth
Preacher.....Vickie Morgan

9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION SERVICE

President and Preacher..... Rev Dr Anthony Rustell
Readings: Jeremiah 15.15-21, Romans 12.9-21
Matthew 16.21-28

6.00 pm EVENSONG

Led byDr Mike Fluck

THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

10.30 am HOLY COMMUNION (TRADITIONAL)

PresidentRev'd Richard Acworth
Preacher.....Vickie Morgan

SUNDAY 10 September Trinity 13

8.00 am COMMUNION

President and PreacherCanon Tom

9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION SERVICE

President and PreacherCanon Tom
Readings Ezekiel 33.7-11, Romans 13.8-14,
Matthew 18.15-20

6.00 pm EVENSONG

Led bySandra Haggan

THURSDAY 14 September

10.30 am HOLY COMMUNION (TRADITIONAL)

President AND Preacher.....Canon Tom

FLOWER FESTIVAL 2018

There will be a meeting in church on Tuesday 26 September 2017 at 7pm, for anyone interested in taking part in the Flower Festival next year. If you would like a lift to this meeting, please speak to Sandra or Clare.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The World

Including St John
the Divine, Nsawam
Ghana
Rod & Glenda
Thomas & Sendai
Church Japan.

The Diocese

& Bishop
Christopher

Our Parish & Deanery

Those in Urgent

Need:

Margaret Ward
Joyce Shuttlewood

The Departed:


Mo Evans
(a.k.a.Bridges)
Edna Pearson

Anniversaries of

Departed:

No anniversaries of
departed recorded
this week

BIBLE STUDY GROUP



The Bible Study Group will resume activities on Thursday September 7th at 2pm, at 4 Pine Grove PO9 2RW. We shall be looking at the life of Moses. More details from Alan Hakim (023 -9247-1681).

HAVE YOUR SAY

Consultation Forms about the re-ordering of St Faith's are available near the North Door. Closing date September 17th.



Café open from 8.45am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, from 8.45am to 2.30pm on Saturday.

ST FAITH'S CHARITY SHOP

Please keep those donations coming in... clothing, toys, books, puzzles, crockery, jewellery, linen, small furniture items. They can all be turned into useful cash for our Parish! Thank you.



FUTURE EVENTS..

- Sat 9 September: Ride and Stride 10am-6pm and Town Fair 10am-2pm
Sat 16 Sept 6pm Ordination of Vickie & David Morgan at St. Faith's.
Sat 23 Sept 7pm ~~Harvest Supper~~— please note that the Harvest Supper is cancelled because of the volume of other parish events.
Sun 8 October 9.30am Patronal Festival - with a play about St Faith of Aquitaine
Sat 14 October 7.30pm Ballads, Brews and Blues
Tues 17 Oct 12.30 pm. Series of Lunchtime Musical Half-Hours begins.
Sat 5 November 3.30pm Concert by Havant Orchestra String Quartet
Sat 25 November 7pm Bell Ringers' Dinner in the Pallant Centre

CONTACT INFORMATION...

...can be found on the Monthly Information Sheet.