

connecting faith and daily life

More than a picnic



Gillian Cooper *reflects on* John 6:1-21

Picnics for me are bound up with memories of seaside holidays. Picnics must have egg sandwiches and crisps, something cold and fizzy to drink, chocolate biscuits that have melted a little, perhaps a banana. And of course there must be just a little bit of sand on everything. Bread and sardines would definitely not be on my list of favourites.

But today's Gospel reading is not about a picnic. The account is shot through with theology. It is near the Passover festival, so our thoughts turn to the meal which re-enacts God's salvation of the people from slavery. The people are hungry near a mountain, reminding us of God's miraculous provision of manna on Israel's wilderness journey to Mount Sinai. This is not about a picnic, it is about who Jesus really is. Only God can make food. Only God can walk on the stormy water of a lake. Jesus is recognised as "the prophet who is to come into the world" but he is more than a prophet. In him are seen the signs of God's presence.

We come to God's table and are given bread. It is the bread of our Passover, our story of salvation when slavery and death give way to freedom and life. It is the bread of the desert, the miraculous food that turns our wilderness into a place of life and hope. 🍞

Feed us, Lord, at your table. Give us the bread of salvation to free us from our sin, and manna to sustain us on our journey, that we may travel in faith to our home in your kingdom. Amen.

The A-Z of healthy living X is for great eXpectations

by Sr Thérèse Garman

"We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel!" (Luke 24:21)

Have you ever had your hopes shattered by God? For the two disciples on the way to Emmaus (Luke 24), the death of Jesus caused despondency and doubt because their expectations were

different from reality. They believed Jesus would establish an everlasting kingdom in Jerusalem, but he didn't fulfil their expectations. These were faulty, based on the reasoning and wisdom of human beings, not the word of God. When Jesus broke the bread, their eyes were opened and they knew him. Their response: "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" When the true Christ comes into our presence, all doubt is removed and our heart also burns within us.

What are your expectations? Are they grounded in the real Jesus, or one of your own making? 🍞

“**Bestow upon me, O Lord my God, an understanding that knows thee, wisdom in finding thee... and confidence that I shall embrace thee at the last.**

St Thomas Aquinas

The joy of laughter

by Paul Kerensa

Sometimes the organist starts again because he's played a bum note. The choir might have a tone-deaf chorister who doesn't know any better. The minister might mispronounce a name during the marriage vows. This is life, in all its unpredictable joy – and our Church hosts life's key moments. This backdrop of beautiful weddings, profound baptisms and sombre funerals only heightens

the hilarity. There was a fall of man, but the pratfalls of man continue and our stumbles cause the giggles. I think that God joins in with our laughter, because we're only human, and Jesus too, because so was he once.

So God bless the Church and its full range – from Messy Church to bells and smells. It's a Church rooted in the past, but the future is gleefully unknown to us – so in the meantime we'll smile as we unknowingly stroll towards life's banana skins.

From The Joy of Being Anglican, published by Redemptorist Publications (2017).

Code: 1762 Price: £9.95
ISBN: 9780852314777 🍞

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Interim Moderator: Rev June Freeth 721449

Locum Minister Rev Martin Prentice **Session Clerk:** Nicol 811242

Kirk Information

There is a loop system. Adjust hearing aids to benefit. Switch off phones. They cause interference with the organ. Thank you

A warm invitation is extended to everyone to meet in the hall at the back of the church, after the service, for a cup of tea.

Intimations

Thursday - 10 -12 Community Café in the kirk hall

Readings:

Psalm 100

Psalm 19 v 1 - 9

Psalm 51 v 1 - 12

Hymns:

Hymn 103 – Fill your hearts with joy and gladness

Hymn 172 – Sing for God's glory

Hymn 225 – Summer suns are glowing

Hymn 149 – Let all creation dance

Hymn 152 – Praise the Lord his glories show

Hymn 64 – Sing all Creation

Doxology

May the God of peace go with us as we travel from this place;

May the love of Jesus keep us firm in hope and full of grace.