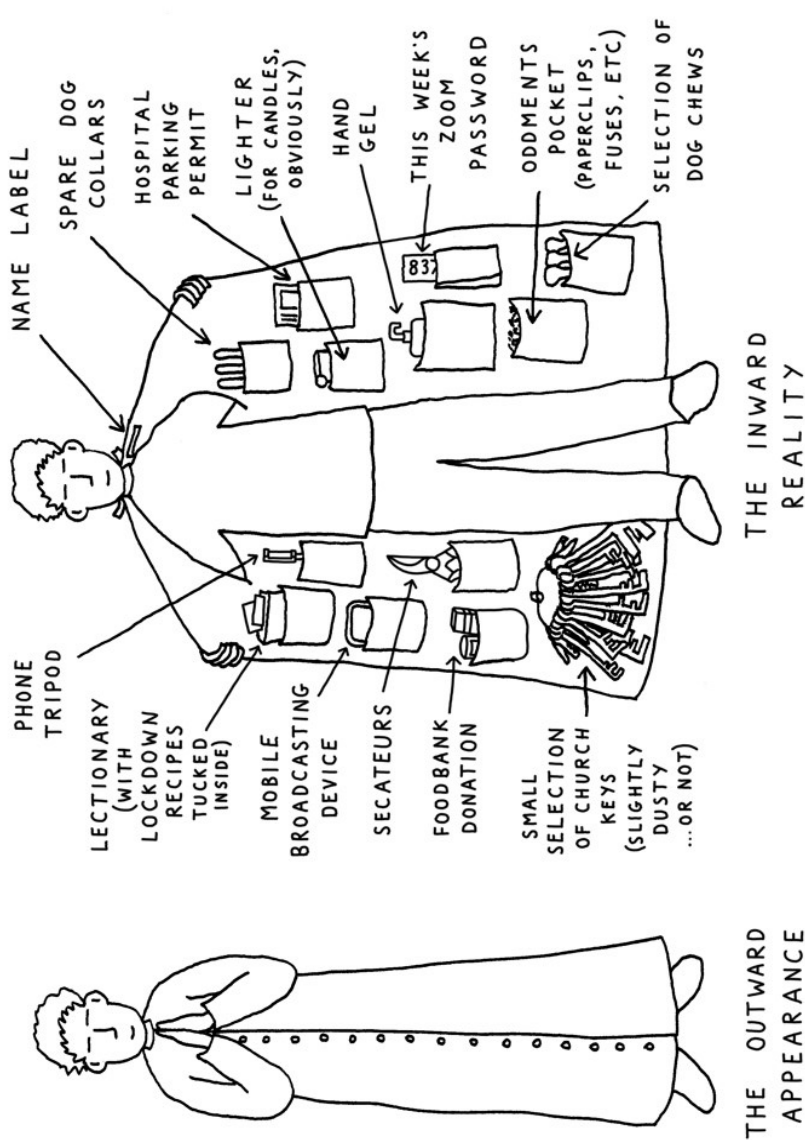


THE CASSOCK



St Cross Newsletter May 2021

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The Vicar writes...

As I write the sun shines yet again, and this spell of recent good weather has been enjoyed by many people being able to meet up with friends outside. It has also made the exit from our church services less harsh as we have at least been able to catch up, albeit briefly, outside the church building. For those who run hospitality businesses the weather has indeed been kind thus far. When I visited Altrincham shopping centre recently the high street was busy, and I sensed a careful confidence in people as everyone went about their business or enjoyed a coffee outside.

I have also had a pleasant walk this week at the RSPB reserve at Burton Mere Wetlands at Neston near Chester. The place was very peaceful with the birdsong the dominant sound, and the highlight for me was to see the avocets using their long upcurved beaks to unearth crustaceans and worms from the mud below. Avocets, though still a protected species, have made a comeback into our country since their elimination from our shores in the earlier part of the 20th century. They are a conservation success which is why they are on the RSPB logo.

Whether it is the hustle and bustle of the high street, or the quietness of a nature reserve, a coffee with friends or even attending church services; all these things have become possible again through the efforts of all of us to play our part in following guidance and receiving vaccinations. It is a long way off from what many areas of our world population are experiencing right now.

In my morning devotions I have been following the readings in

Deuteronomy. There is still a long way to go in the book but what has struck me is that the people of Israel are regularly encouraged to look forward to the promised future with confidence but equally not to forget God in prosperity.

It has made me reflect on my own journey with Christ and not to forget what he has done for me, and to keep trusting in Him, to have confidence in Him, when we look ahead to a future with a degree of perceived uncertainty in a world of change, ecological challenges and in many places, suffering and poverty.

We cannot solve all these things. The reality is that we can only play our part which may seem quite small in a big picture, but in God's eyes, whatever act of kindness, deed of generosity or positive impact on the environment we can offer to others is known to God. We should always strive to the best of our ability not to forget our own blessings and use our relative prosperity, seeking to bless others in Christ's name.

When the avocet came back to our shores it was almost extinct and they are now here in record numbers. There is always hope.

Yours, in Christ

Paul



Occasional Offices

Funeral
27 April Eleanor Margaret 'Rosemary' Edwards



Readings for Services - Sundays and Wednesdays		
	MP = Morning Prayer SE = Said Eucharist <i>(in church 10am)</i>	6.30pm
2 May Easter 5	MP/SE Acts 8.26-end John 15.1-8	Celtic EP Psalm 96 Revelation 3.1-13
5 May Wednesday	SE Psalm 122.1-5 Acts 15.1-6 John 15.1-8	
9 May Easter 6	MP/SE Acts 10.44-end John 15.9-17	
13 May (Thursday) Ascension Day	SE Daniel 7.9-14 Acts 1.1-11 Luke 24.44-end	
16 May Easter 7	MP/SE Acts 1.15-17, 21-end John 17.6-19	
19 May Wednesday	SE Exodus 31.1-5 2 Corinthians 5.1-10 Matthew 24.42-46	
23 May PENTECOST (Whit Sunday)	MP/SE Ezekiel 37.1-14 Acts 2.1-21 John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15	
26 May Wednesday (Augustine)	SE Isaiah 49.22-25 1 Thessalonians. 2.2b-8 Matthew 13.31-33	
30 May Trinity Sunday	MP/SE Isaiah 6.1-8 Romans 8.12-17 John 3.1-17	At KMC

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