



ST MATTHEW & ST WILFRID
SUNDERLAND
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

WEEKLY NEWS 17TH MARCH 2021

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Do you have an article to add to our weekly news? A poem a picture or a few words of reflection, please send it to Dave

ST PATRICKS DAY



Today we remember St Patrick Missionary Bishop of Ireland, one of the writings associated with him is St Patricks Breastplate. For us all in tough times and the loss we have been through it is good to reflect on how we can stay strong, St Patricks Breastplate uses the imagery of binding ourselves to God, here is the full text for you.

I bind unto myself today the strong Name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.

I bind this day to me for ever. By power of faith, Christ's incarnation;
His baptism in the Jordan river; His death on Cross for my salvation;
His bursting from the spiced tomb; His riding up the heavenly way;
His coming at the day of doom; I bind unto myself today.

I bind unto myself the power Of the great love of the cherubim;
The sweet 'well done' in judgment hour, The service of the seraphim,
Confessors' faith, Apostles' word, The Patriarchs' prayers, the Prophets' scrolls,
All good deeds done unto the Lord, And purity of virgin souls.

I bind unto myself today The virtues of the starlit heaven,
The glorious sun's life-giving ray, The whiteness of the moon at even,
The flashing of the lightning free, The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
The stable earth, the deep salt sea, Around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today The power of God to hold and lead,
His eye to watch, His might to stay, His ear to hearken to my need.
The wisdom of my God to teach, His hand to guide, His shield to ward,
The word of God to give me speech, His heavenly host to be my guard.

Against the demon snares of sin, The vice that gives temptation force,
The natural lusts that war within, The hostile men that mar my course;
Or few or many, far or nigh, In every place and in all hours,
Against their fierce hostility, I bind to me these holy powers.

Against all Satan's spells and wiles, Against false words of heresy,
Against the knowledge that defiles, Against the heart's idolatry,
Against the wizard's evil craft, Against the death wound and the burning,
The choking wave and the poisoned shaft, Protect me, Christ, till Thy returning.

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name, The strong Name of the Trinity;
By invocation of the same. The Three in One, and One in Three,
Of Whom all nature hath creation, Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation, Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

Rev'd Dave

WHAT DO WE REALLY VALUE?



#Live Lent – God's Story Our Story after week 3 of our lent course I have been prompted to share a bit of my story...

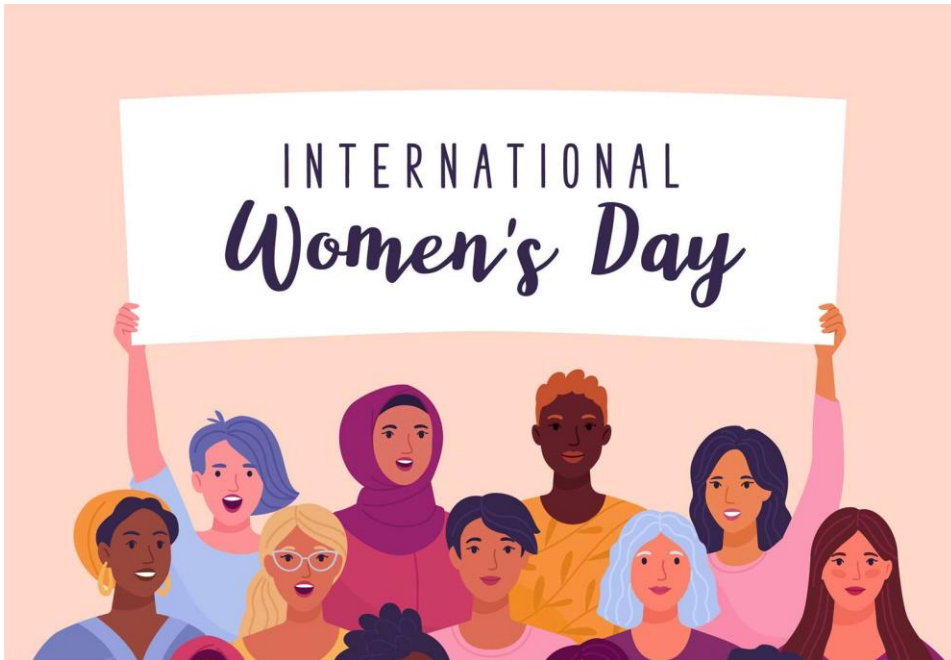
I have many people to thank for sharing their faith stories with me before I too would have a faith story of my own. Hazel Walsh is one of those people. She gave a verse of the Bible printed on a pocket size plastic card. Hazel then explained that she had been praying for me and when she did this verse came to mind - she said "This verse is for you" Isaiah 41:v43 "For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." (NIV) When I was 14 I learnt the difference between what we think we value and what we really value.

I came home from school and my habit was to do two things 1) dump my bag and my coat un-ceremoniously in the hall and 2) find out what is for tea? I walked into the kitchen Mum was busy then I noticed the fish fingers were out on the draining board great I thought chips for tea! As I left the kitchen the phone rang. It was Mum's friend saying that she would be round in 10 to pick us up. The dog was the only one home when the fire started. Mum was just about to take a sip of her tea when her face drained exclaiming "I've left the chip pan on!" I stayed with my friend and Mum raced back with hers. It had only been 10-15 minutes, but it was too late – the fire brigade was hard at work. My sister's beloved dog died unmarked by fire poisoned by fumes.

Shortly after the fire Dad asked Mum what she missed most. It was not our first ever automatic washing machine or new dishwasher it was the tea caddy spoon: Just over 30 years before Mum and Dad were shopping for her wedding ring. As a special offer the jewellers were giving a gift of a silver-plated caddy spoon with each ring purchase. This was to be their first ever wedding present an enduring symbol of married life's rollercoaster. Dad sifted through piles of charred ash and debris amazingly he found it. The spoon was retired from active duty that day but not discarded. Symbols of love are surprising. Some people might say "Of course Natalie can say that she really loves God because she's a vicar's wife." I was not always as assured in my faith because I did not know about a Christian's life until someone told me, just over 30 years ago. Jesus died on a cross for everyone and beat death by rising from the dead 3 days later. The cross is another symbol of surprising love for me. Today I know I am no longer sitting on the rollercoaster alone because God is holding my hand. The ride still does throw its challenge's my way. Every day I choose to live my life with God because I want and need to. You have a choice too. What or who do you really value and love?

Natalie Tolhurst

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



In the week of International Women's Day we were all saddened by yet another terrible example of violence against women in this country. Also this week some very disturbing figures came out showing that almost all women seem to have experienced at least one incident of sexual harassment by men.

Unfortunately this is global problem. The World Council of Churches promotes to wear something black on Thursdays, to declare that we are part of the global movement resisting

attitudes and practices that permit gender based violence and to show respect for women who are resilient in the face of it, (<https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black>). In the past, the church may have done a lot of harm by speaking about issues in human sexuality in ways that many would now regard as completely inappropriate. And surely its own track record on safeguarding should have been much better. But the church is also right to keep pointing at some very dangerous and harmful aspects of human sexuality and our dependency on God to find the right way in this, as expressed in the following prayer from our own prayerbook:

'Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen'

Rev'd Wim

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