

Postcard from Week:

It's been quite a watery Winter hasn't it? Living in Week, with a dog to walk, the reality of rain is very noticeable. You may know this is a treasure of a hamlet - a place of trees & water. Of late, the brooks have been excelling themselves and the end of our lane has been flooded at least 3 times. We have even had an unexpected internal water invasion, traced back to the hot water cylinder springing a leak!

A delightful spate of Baptisms requests across the Team has caused me to reflect further on water as a metaphor. I wasn't unduly taken aback then when part of a talk at a recent Bishop's Lent Quiet Day for clergy reminded me of another significant & special place of water which I visited on the Curates' pilgrimage to Holy Land in 2016.

'Mensa Christi' on the shore of Lake Galilee is a site visited by many pilgrims each year. Most guide books would tell us there is a small Franciscan chapel built over a rocky area near the water's edge to mark the place where Jesus appeared to his disciples, on one particular occasion, after the resurrection. In their turn, you may remember, they had been out fishing, understandably returning to the solace & comfort of familiar occupation, but caught nothing. A stranger advised them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat and an abundance of fish filled them. The stranger is recognised as Jesus & a fishy breakfast ensues. Thereafter, Peter is powerfully re-commissioned by Jesus with the words, 'Feed my sheep'. You can read a fuller account in John's gospel - chapter 21.

Those momentous events of long ago do not conjure up the current tranquillity and deep peace of the shoreline. Back in the winter of 2016, we were given some time to ourselves to just be on that shore line: a liminal place of sand...water...reeds...bird song...basalt rock. It was & remains, I expect, a place of timeless encounter.

When Jesus has questioned Peter 3 times & then commissioned him, the episode has not fully run its course, according to John. Jesus' last recorded words here to Peter are 'Follow me'. For those of us who stood & sat on the beach that day, the same words seem to emanate from the very fabric of that place. In this Lenten season, it's a fruitful Bible passage to re-read; a significant place in which to dwell in the mind's eye.

That passage among others & those words, 'Follow me' will be the focus of a Lenten Quiet Day which my Reader husband, Richard and I are offering to the Team on Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> 10am – 4pm in Dartington Church Hall [opposite St Mary's, Dartington]. There will be plenty of silence; 3 short talks and optional Holy Communion. Bring your own lunch but refreshments will be provided. There is no charge for the day but donations are welcome to cover costs. Please contact Richard to book a place: 01803 865196

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Blessings on your Lenten journey, Rev Jane.