

Reflection For Sunday October 27

"So shall my word be that goes out of my mouth, it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it"
(Isaiah 55 v 10 -11)

There are two very special boats that sit on a shelf in my eldest Grandson's bedroom when he comes to stay at the vicarage.

Noah's Ark and a Pirate Ship. We have epic adventures all over the house as good and evil battle against each other. I try to manage it that Noah ends up victorious over the pirates.

All the animals you can think of are present in the ark including a tiny dove who is the great messenger of peace.

You may remember in the bible story how, when the waters subside, Noah sends the dove out and when he doesn't return - it is a sign that all is well.

With this in mind, I love the notion in our reading from Isaiah that the word of God literally goes out of the mouth of the Lord and finds a place to settle somewhere, where it's task can be fulfilled.

So when we hear the Word of God, or quietly read the bible at home, I think we should similarly be ready for something to literally settle on our heart so that we can be blessed and guided for what lies ahead for us personally. Perhaps a single word, a phrase or a sentence, that flies through the air and lands in our heart to give us courage and confidence when a battle lies ahead for us in some shape or form.

Our reading from 2 Timothy 3: 14 - 4:5 is an exhortation to a follower to stay faithful and to let the word of God be his inspiration and guide.

In our Gospel reading (John 5 v 36 - end) Jesus admonishes the Jews for their failure to search out the reality of God which lies just behind the words they have learnt by rote.

In St Peter's Church, there is a place to light a candle and there is a kneeler tucked away underneath. It reads:

I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you "John 14 v 12 and the little sprigs of leaves embroidered onto it, look just like doves winging their way to someone's heart.

Sometimes when something surprises us, we might exclaim " O My word!" and I like to think this is not just some wild exclamation that we can't properly describe, but rather a deep down realisation that we have unexpectedly come face to face with God.

So in these days especially look out for the word of God to settle on you just like a dove finding dry land on a flooded plain or the defeat of a rogue pirate ship by Noah's modest craft.

Fr Andrew