

A Reflection from a St Mary's Churchwarden (Charles Wilson)

Do clocks ever annoy you? Particularly if they only show the right time twice a day! I expect you've noticed that St Mary's clock has been telling the wrong time for about 4 months. Most upsetting, particularly for Howard Deck, who has worked long and hard to get it back to accuracy. He tells me it's all about the new Compression spring (it broke after 150 years) which has different characteristics (flex?) to the old one. It needs time to adjust, both to the Pendulum (which has its own adjustments) and to the Escapement. I got lost at that point...something to do with the tick-tock thing about clocks, and the accurate release of Time into the mechanics.

As I stood under St Mary's clock the other day, a prominent villager chuckled at the erroneous clock hands and suggested I might talk about Time in my next magazine reflection. So I'm responding to his challenge!

Even though with "the Lord, a day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as a day", God still works with time, because he works with us. It's just a tool of measurement, like a ruler. It won't run out, it'll just keep ticking - until the new heavens and new earth arrive, and eternity is fully revealed.

As a younger person, I was consumed with the challenge of how to *use my time* to get things done in the most efficient way. My bookshelves prove that; but the downside was that it made me somewhat "driven to achieve". As years pass, I'm realising that it's not the volume of outputs through efficient time management that matters, but the quality of what I do, and how I actually do it.

If I agree with Mr Wrigley (see April's reflection) that Jesus has "risen indeed", and that by faith I may one day join him, then soon, after my death, I may have *limitless time*. What a prospect - and no household tasks or job lists to worry about either!

So for now, I face a fast-diminishing supply of time on earth, and yet, with *unlimited time* ahead if I join a risen Lord, does this really matter I ask myself? I don't think so.

Recently, Rev John Morris really caught my imagination as he graphically reviewed the wonder of a post-resurrection Jesus. He had a new body which could move as spirit, exiting the heavy, spiced bandages wrapped around him without even moving them; he entered houses through locked doors to meet the disciples; and disappeared at will from the meal-table at Emmaus. Instant changes of location, *unlimited by time or space*. Mind-blowing, if you believe it.

For now, the church is presently contemplating those Easter events, and looking ahead to Ascension Day with Pentecost Sunday following on 20th May. I'm delighted to say that Archdeacon Fiona Windsor is kindly taking our 10.00am service and preaching – please do join us!