

Sunday 7 June 2020

TRINITY SUNDAY

Fr David reflects...

Had we been in church this Sunday then we'd have been singing some good hymns with some good words – consubstantial, co-eternal, triune, cherubim, seraphim, threefold and Paraclete. I imagine that some of you are even now humming favourite Trinity hymn tunes to yourself.

As ever with the Church, some of these words are found nowhere else but in our traditional hymnody. Despite the best attempt of translators and authors there have been few satisfactory modern versions. *Three in one and one in three* gives the idea but removes a definite element of the mystery of the Godhead.

Words are important things. How else can we communicate in this extended time of separation from friends, family and church without them? The loving, comforting touch has been taken from us, along with the hug and the kiss. We'll all know the stab of pain caused by an ill-timed comment from someone who didn't perhaps intend it. We'll all know, too, the inward effect of a word which *was* intended to hurt. Actions, we are taught, speak louder than words, but at the moment we have more word than language resources at our disposal. Words are powerful and strong.

Actions have spoken loudly in this past week with people *taking the knee* against horrific acts of racism. I was so proud to see a picture of one of my Goddaughters, aged 11, kneeling with placard in hand, making her protest last Wednesday in Exeter. Who would have imagined, further afield, that the holding aloft of The Bible could speak not of the benevolence of the all-loving and embracing God of peace and justice that Christians know but of something altogether more sinister and un-Christian.

Whilst we have words at our disposal, I hope that we will all be inspired to use them to speak out and against that which is wrong, unjust and not of God. As we are invited over and over to engage in the mystery of God the Holy Trinity, may we use our words to encourage others to take a glimpse of God's transformative, salvific and redemptive powers. God speaks to us words of peace, words of love, of mercy, forgiveness, inclusion and grace. Let's make those things heard above the clanging and jarring noises of all that prevents God's kingdom coming on earth.