



14<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I think there are more jokey or plain rude Valentine cards about than previously. That's my conclusion from years of trying to buy 'the right one.' (Of course, I can't get to a shop to test out my judgment this year!) If I'm correct, is it because we find it easier to cope with things that are mysterious by pretending to humour? It is as if we can in some way control the mystery that is romantic love by laughing about it. Mystery is hard to cope with.

Yet, so much in life is mysterious. And it's not just the mystery of human attraction. So much science has a mysterious quality to it as well, I often don't even understand the terms. 'Neutrinos' are the fundamental particles which make up the universe. 'Black holes' are regions of spacetime from which nothing can escape, not even light. 'Pseudo-randomness', are numbers which look random but aren't. And what is the 'Higgs Boson' – the so-called God particle, anyway? 'Tis mystery all!

Humanity knows such a lot, and yet the more we know the more there is to know. The Pandemic has made that all too awfully plain. So much is mysterious. Albert Einstein, whose very name is perhaps synonymous in many minds with the quest to know and understand, wrote in 1930, 'The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious ... He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead.'

And that brings me to today's gospel story of the transfiguration. Whatever else this account of Jesus transfigured before Peter, James and John on the mountain top is meant to convey to us, mysteriousness must surely be the first thing – his appearance was changed as they looked; even his clothes shone with an out-of-this-world radiance; and it is as if Moses and Elijah, both dead centuries ago, were actually there, talking to him; and then even God spoke. Mysterious indeed!

No wonder we're told a cloud formed! Could anything be more clouded in mystery? And that's perhaps a key. We assume that this workaday, worrisome, weary world is far removed from the joys and wonders of heaven, but maybe it isn't. Maybe eternity is only hidden, as if by a fog, only to suddenly break into view when so unexpected.

When I was still able to drive to work, I remember an evening when I had to drive home in thick, grey fog; then in a moment as I came over the brow of a hill the fog was gone, and all was streaming bright sunshine. A mile later and I was into grey fog again. Could it be that our lives are so often fogged up with things that we can't see the bright rays of eternity through them? God grant us transfiguring vision even in the fogs of living.

With every blessing,

Christopher.



## NOTICES

Holy Trinity Blacon are the living church of our living God, and we continue to be at work here! If you are able, do check the parish website [www.holytrinityblacon.org](http://www.holytrinityblacon.org) or our Facebook page (holytrinityblacon) for updates.

**LOCKDOWN** affects the whole country now, but fortunately we can still continue to meet (socially distanced) in church to worship together, and we will continue meeting at 9.30am each Sunday. The minibus is also running, so do let us know if you would like a lift.

**PRAYING FOR BLACON** This week, to mark Valentine's Day, Louise and Tina are joining with Jo Pemberton who is on placement with us, and we are prayerfully putting out chocolates with special message telling of God's love for people, as we take our exercise. Do join us in praying for the residents of the following roads: *Western Avenue; Saughall Road; Shelley Road; Melbourne Road.*

**EVENING PRAYER** We meet each Wednesday 5pm for Evening Prayer on Zoom. Do let us know if you would like the link – everyone is welcome to join us.

**DAILY HOPE** is a free phone line for hymns, prayers and reflections – 0800 804 8044

**LENT** begins this week on *Ash Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February*, when we will hold a service of Eucharist with ashing at 11am. On Sundays in Lent, there will be time of silent contemplative prayer in church from 11am. There is also a Lent Course run online on Thursday evenings, and a Stations of the Cross video – more information from our website [www.holytrinityblacon.org](http://www.holytrinityblacon.org)

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – If you do not have access to the internet, and would instead like a DVD of our stations video, please let Tina or Louise know.

**BLACON BEACON** is a food charity for Blacon based in our church hall. Members pay a weekly contribution, and in exchange receive weekly bags of food. Donations are always welcome: food can be dropped off at the church on Sundays, or the hall during the week. For more information, please contact Kerry on 07851 870078.

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# Holy Trinity Church Blacon

Charity number 1180853

