



Jardin Majorelle - Marrakesh



MIDWEEK MUSINGS

St Andrew's Parish Church

16 February 2021

Dear All

This morning I am put in mind of that old hymn 'Dark and dreary is the morn, unaccompanied by thee.' It's not the brightest of days, is it? Hopefully, what follows will bring some sunshine from the glorious warmth of Morocco, as contained in my photographs.

Sunday Service: 21 February - 1st Sunday of Lent

We begin our journey of reflection towards Easter. I shall be writing the service for this coming weekend, which I will despatch on Saturday. My reflections on the on the Bible readings have already started to take shape, which thoughts were sparked in part by the above photograph. I will explain lower down the page under 'Grunge v Haute Couture'.

The hazards of the © symbol

Tim and I chatted recently about the considerations and hazards to be avoided, when preparing lockdown services thus taking appreciably longer to prepare as a consequence. Whatever we do, we must not infringe the dreaded copyright laws. Next time you are able to return to church waiting for the service to start, flick through the hymnbook and see how many times the wretched © symbol appears at the end of hymns. Even if the words are not subject to copyright, frequently the music is, so it's a double whammy when trying to incorporate the dynamics of a hymn into any service. The option is to obtain the necessary Church Copyright Licence enabling streaming of hymns and other music for virtual services. Tim has triumphed and obtained the necessary licence. Unfortunately, the licence does not give carte blanche to use all Internet music, there are restrictions as to the resources that can be accessed and the specific circumstances for which they can be used. This is such a yawn but never say die! We can at least now use what is available with impunity.

Tim left it to the proverbial 'techie two-year-old' to work out how to operate the streaming resources and I have managed to do so. Before you say it, agreed, I'm a 62-year-old techie but as Tim put it, I'm younger than him so that counts! What I have discovered is that the music resources are available via mp3 only. I am going to do a dry run for my service on Sunday following this newsletter so that you can give me feedback as to whether you can access the music or not. Depending on your feedback Nicholas might be able to work some magic on the website.

Parish Prayers: Friday 26 February at 9.30am

We will meet as usual on the last Friday of the month, however, continuing on Zoom until Lockdown has lifted. Zoom sign-on details and new prayers will be circulated nearer the time. Please let me know if you have a theme you would like the prayers to consider next time.

Grunge v Haute Couture

I was assembling what I would wear today and reached for a slouchy jumper, jeans with a rip in one knee – not by design (I'm not that cool) but through wear and tear – plus ankle boots with flat heels and then, I thought of Yves St Laurent, as one does! What would he have made of my grungy lockdown wardrobe? Why you might ask did I consider Mons. St Laurent? The above picture was taken in 2016 when David and I were on holiday touring through Morocco. The house in the grounds of Le Jardin Majorelle was the home of Yves St Laurent for many years where he developed the gardens with the same tasteful style as his couture. The distinctive blue paint was created by his partner, which colour is now known as Majorelle Blue. I had only been reviewing my holiday photos on my computer the afternoon before and the beauty of the gardens and his couture had obviously stuck in my mind. Lockdown had clearly had an adverse effect on my standards and so I decided to redress the balance by donning a skirt etc and heels.

Thus, much better poised, my mind sprinted on to consider the imminent arrival of Lent in Lockdown. The fact that it is Lockdown could well be a blessing in disguise, as not being able to buzz about as we usually do, we can use Lent to take stock emotionally, morally and spiritually. Have we changed? Is the change for the better? Have bad habits slipped into our routine that we had not noticed? What help can we find? Wait and see how all of this weaves into my reflections in this weekend's service. For now, I add further pictures of the gardens and out on the streets in Marrakesh – spot the snakes on the carpet!



Best wishes

Juliette