

From the Chaplain...

Some years ago, when I was preparing a group of ten-year-olds for their first Communion, I asked the children to tell me what they thought the purpose of our weekly sessions should be. The response of one little boy has stayed with me ever since. When it was his turn to say what he thought our conversations were for, he said: 'I hope this time will help me to see God better'. I have always recalled this phrase when reading our Gospel passage for this Sunday (Mark 10. 46-end). For at the heart of the story is a blind man called Bartimaeus who badly wants to see – to see physically, of course, but also to see in some other, more fundamental way. Out of this yearning he will risk everything, overcoming the familiar, defying those around him, even holding his own dignity cheap. And he's ready to do these things if only he might see life through a lens that has never been available to him before. Jesus' response to Bartimaeus shows that he recognises how much more is at stake than curing blindness. 'What do you want me to do for you?' he asks, which coming from anyone else might seem a rather foolish question. But Jesus isn't just being cute: rather, he's demanding that Bartimaeus take full responsibility for the transformation he claims to want. It is the evident readiness of the blind man – without hesitation, without excuse, without self-pity – to say, 'Master, let me receive my sight' that finally unlocks the power of God in his life (v. 51).

Please note that Monday Choral Evensong on 28 October will take place at St Alfege Church at 5.30pm. The Chapel Choir will be joined by the Gorcum Boys' Choir from the Netherlands. Everyone is very welcome. Monday Evensong will be held in the Chapel as usual the following week.

Finally, please also note that British Summer Time ends at 2.00am this Sunday, 27 October. Clocks therefore go back by one hour at that time.

Yours faithfully,
Robert

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