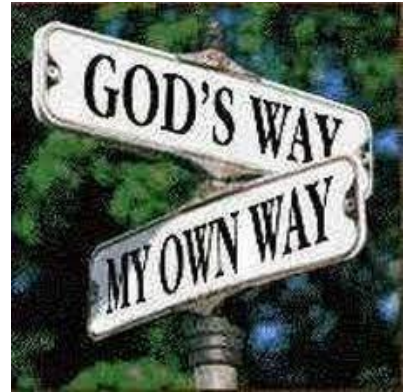


## Thoughts from the Rectory for June 2024

My husband Mark and I decided that we would venture out on the recent May Bank Holiday Monday to a stately home, something we have always enjoyed doing. The weather was warm and sunny, the perfect day to explore a house, walk in wonderful gardens and have a leisurely lunch out.

We decided to go to Burghley House on the edge of Stamford and took some time (after our delightful lunch in the Orangery Restaurant) to wander through the house and take in some of the treasures and art works that had been collected by the Earls of Exeter down through the generations from the time of William Cecil (Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I).



Our visit continued into the vast gardens where a Sculpture Exhibition caught our eye. We eagerly entered the gardens and were told that through the wonders of technology the QR code in the leaflet would give us a guide so we could find our way around. All well and good, except that the QR code failed to deliver! Whether it was a problem with the phone signal or just our impatience as we waited for it to download, we ended up only seeing the simple map already in our pamphlet with no detail about route or sculptures. We were on our own, left to wander about with no clear direction, no signpost, no information about what we were seeing on the route.

As we wandered it suddenly occurred to me that sometimes life is like that. We end up with no sense of direction, unwittingly bumbling through life without a guide; trying to work out which way to go and which choice of path to take on our own, often taking wrong turnings, sometimes ending up in dead ends or needing to turn back and try a different path. We can be so impatient to get on with life with our eyes fixed only on the next achievement that we forget to be patient, to pace ourselves, to enjoy the journey and take in the view; to reflect on the path we are treading.

I wonder what it is that guides your life? What is the path you choose to follow? Where are you going?

There is only one path that leads to abundant and everlasting life and that is the Christian path – the path that leads to God. There is no better road to take; and yes, there may be ups and downs, twists and turns and times we can't clearly see where the path is leading, but we have a lifelong guide for the journey in Jesus. If we follow in the steps of Jesus we can make no better life choice.

Jesus says to those who are looking for the right path through life:

'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' John 14:6

And when we choose this path we find that a whole journey through life becomes so much more than we could ever imagine. The further and closer we walk with Jesus the more life opens up for us and when we enjoy the travelling we can be at peace with the world because we know where we are heading.

Travel well and safely through June

Revd Ruth

*If you want to chat about exploring a faith journey – getting started or getting back on the right path, please be in touch [revruthcolby@gmail.com](mailto:revruthcolby@gmail.com) or 01636 924383*