

Be more Weeble



I've had this handsome chap on my desk at home for the last week, keeping me company as I work at home during the interesting times we're living in under the Coronavirus.

He's a Weeble. Weebles are a great encapsulation of readiness, and embody a good response to the current challenges we're all facing. Weebles are resilient "by design". They are built expecting to face being pushed over. They don't try to stop it happening; it's how they respond that's the most important thing, gradually coming back to a position of equilibrium. As their theme song says "Weebles wobble, but they don't fall down".

In dealing with these circumstances, as Father Paul covered in the 4th Lent Sunday sermon, it's important that we balance looking after ourselves with looking after each other. Despite our remoteness from each other this week, it's been great examples of people really pulling together, looking after each other and helping each other to adapt.

St Paul's letter to the Philippians is a great example. In his letter to the Philippians, St Paul didn't allow his remoteness to hamper his help to others. Paul urges the Philippians to let their public behaviour match the gospel. At times this might mean having to suffer, and be humble, as Jesus was humble. He urges the Philippians to retain their unity and to resist division, and to unite in the face of adversity and challenges.

Paul also makes a startling statement in this letter about the relative value of things. He says....."**What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him**" (Philippians 3:8-9). Paul gave up everything to know Christ and His power helps us to live for Him.

In Philippians, Paul communicates that has learnt to be content with what he has. He knows how to do without things, and has learnt that the secret is to trust in God's strength. Even in his darkest time in prison, uncertain as to his fate, he is able to see hope in the future and encourage others. Paul is able to find happiness by focusing his attention on knowing Christ.

It'd be unsurprising at the moment if we didn't all have the occasional wobble. I'm sure none of us have dealt with the stresses and disruptions perfectly this week. There have probably been examples where, through fear, we've not fully trusted in God, or put ourselves first over others. But that's ok; we're facing exceptional circumstances. So long through our faith we're able to put what's happening into context and adapt as best we can to what's happening, we can make sure we wobble, but don't fall down. Through living the message of the gospel, we can also help make sure others don't either.

So over the next few weeks, let's all try to be more weeble.

I think though that this one in particular looks very handsome....he has a strange resemblance to someone I think I know....

Justin Elks,
Licensed Lay Minister.