



Vintage Adventure @ Home

May 2020

Messy Vintage

from The Bible Reading Fellowship 

VINTAGE ADVENTURE @ HOME
MAY 2020

Dear Friends

It seems like a long time since we all gathered as a community to share our stories and share in God's story. So, we are delighted to be able to bring Vintage Adventure into your homes. We know this isn't a substitute for being with each other but hope and pray that it gives us the opportunity to be together as we share in the contents of this pack. We're looking at the post resurrection story of Jesus on the beach with some of the disciples, including Simon Peter, and how Jesus cares for their physical, emotional and spiritual needs, a reality that is equally true for us today.

We can't provide hospitality in the same way, but can I suggest that you take the tea bag and make a cuppa, find somewhere comfortable to sit, and then settle down with the material. There is no right or wrong way to engage with the contents, but read slowly through the prayers, the readings and the reflections and stay with whatever is speaking to you. God wants to hear your heart and also wants to speak to you!

The pack includes:

- A tea bag – enjoy!
- Prayers to settle yourself into a time of quiet, for yourself and for the world
- Bible readings from John 21; Breakfast on the Beach and Jesus Restores Peter
- Reflections on readings; Peter, Do You Love Me? and Breakfast on the Beach
- Photo from Lake Galilee and a personal story from Anna Chaplain, Marion Hitchins
- Two poems, 'A Sonnet for St Peter' and a humourous look at a BBQ on the Beach
- Some fish to cut out; write names on them as a reminder to pray for these individuals
- A word-search
- And then for lunch – a fish recipe from Pat; do take a photo if you make it and send to us – we will include in our next Vintage Adventure @ Home!

And two more contributions from our Vintage Adventure Community

- A picture reminding us that God is our stronghold and refuge from Ann Todd
 - You may like to colour this as a way of reflecting on the promises
- A poem that helps us reflect on this time of isolation from Gillian Gain

Thank you to everyone for making our first addition of Vintage Adventure @ Home possible

With love and blessings

Erica

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TAKING SOME SPACE WITH GOD

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always'.
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

From St Patrick's Breastplate

Praying for Ourselves

Loving, ever living and compassionate God
You understand the pain of loss, the heartache of bereavement
May we hold in our hearts all those whose family or friends have died

You are a light that shines in the darkest times
Guide us and heal us in our sickness and sorrow

You comfort us in times of fear
May we comfort each other, even as we keep apart

You console and lead us in times of doubt and confusion
May we follow the light of your love and spread hope

You move our hearts to acts of generosity
May we be led to share what we have with those in need

God of life,

We thank you for the signs of your light in the midst of our darkness,
May we be signs of your compassion in the heart of your world

AMEN

Restoration

poem based on our reading from John 21: 15-19

Master don't tease. You know
I am your friend. Yet still you ask,
And how can I reply?
I swore unending loyalty, and then
Three times denied, but Lord,
I am your friend. And still you press,
You are my friend, then? Lord it hurts,
But in the hurting heals:
Three times I say it, 'Yes. I am your friend.'
And gladly I will serve as you command.
Ann Lewin from 'Watching for the Kingfisher'

Praying for our World

God who heals, we pray for all medical professionals dealing daily with the intense pressures of this crisis. Grant them resilience in weariness, discernment in diagnosis, and compassion upon compassion as they care. We thank you for the army of researchers working steadily and quietly towards a cure – give them clarity, serendipity and unexpected breakthrough today. Would you rise above this present darkness as the Sun of Righteousness with healing in your rays. May this be our prayer:

Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm.

Nothing is too hard for you.

Jeremiah 32: 17

God of all wisdom, we pray for our leaders: the World Health Organisation, national governments, and local leaders too – heads of schools, hospitals and other institutions. Since you have positioned these people in public service for this hour, we ask you to grant them wisdom beyond their own wisdom to contain this virus, faith beyond their own faith to fight this fear, and strength beyond their own strength to sustain vital institutions through this time of turmoil. God of all wisdom and Counsel, you are powerful and merciful; May this be our prayer:

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear.

Psalms 46: 1-2

May the Lord God Almighty, who loves you protect you. May Jesus Christ, His Son who died for you save you. And may the Holy Spirit who broods over the chaos and fills you with his presence, intercede for you and in you for others at this time.

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.

To him be glory for ever and ever. AMEN

2 Timothy 4:18

from 24-7 Prayer (Pete Greig)

BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH

JOHN 21: 1-14 (NRSV)

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

IGNATIAN REFLECTION on JOHN 21: 1-14

Ignatian spirituality is rooted in the experiences of Ignatius Loyola (1491–1556), a Spanish nobleman whose conversion to a deep Christian faith began while he was recovering from war wounds and eventually became the founder of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits. Ignatian spirituality is a way of discerning God's presence in our everyday lives. St Ignatius encourages us to reflectively review our lives and scripture by engaging our imagination and our senses.

So, pause and pray that God will guide you as you enter into this story from the Gospel of John. Imagine yourself to be part of the scene as it unfolds and ask Jesus what he wants to say to you today.

Breakfast on the Beach

You have been fishing all night with your friends. How good to feel the breeze on your face, to do something so familiar, to forget the turmoil of the recent weeks and savour the beauty of the night sky. You are reminded of the Psalmist's words:

'When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?'

Psalm 8:3-4

The persistent, gentle lap of the water calms your troubled thoughts as you attempt to understand all that has happened. You continue to be haunted by memories of the trial and the crucifixion and yet you also know the truth of the resurrection. You have seen Jesus, and yet he is not with you. Your whole world is disorientated, your heart is aching, and you yearn to know what comes next.

As you cast your nets out again, memories come flooding back and stories cascade between you all; Jesus teaching from the boat, hungry families on the lakeside shore, crowds hurrying from local villages seeking healing and hope. And what about that time when you were so scared of the storm, whilst Jesus slept and yet, on waking he rebuked the wind, bringing calm to the water and to your battered emotions. Or that time, when unbelievably, Jesus walked across the lake towards you.

And then as the dawn begins to break, your nets empty, you return towards the shore. A man, leaning over a fire, looks up and calls to you:

"Children, you have no fish?"

"No," you answer.

"Cast the net to the right side of the boat; then you will catch some."

Surely you have heard something like this before. The last time someone told you where to cast your nets, there was a miraculous haul of fish –

You look into the distance and wonder. The man seems to be looking directly at you, but you can't see his face. You wonder, you hesitate and then you throw your nets.

The miracle happened, your heart leaps and you can't wait to join, who you now know to be Jesus, on the beach.

A fire is lit, approaching Jesus, you hand him some fish, you look up into his face.

"Come and have breakfast" he says, inviting you all to sit with him.

Tired after a night out on the water, exhausted after weeks of emotional upheaval, weary of waiting and fearful of the future, I wonder what you felt in that moment as Jesus invites you to 'Come and have breakfast'

Pause here and imagine the scene; has the sun risen yet? Is there a chill in the air? What does the sand feel like beneath your feet as you drag the boat on shore and make your way towards Jesus? Can you smell the fish cooking? Or the wood on the fire?

Now look into the face of Jesus. What do you see there?

Pause

What do you want to say to Jesus?

And what does Jesus say to you?

Jot down, write a poem, create a picture of anything that God has been saying to you through this passage

Offer these thoughts to Jesus, who loves you and who cares for your physical, emotional and spiritual needs, as you close this reflection.



JESUS RESTORES PETER

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

JOHN 21: 15-19

PETER, DO YOU LOVE ME?

After sharing breakfast with the six disciples, Jesus turns to Peter and says:

'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?'

I wonder how Peter was feeling at this moment. Perhaps he was relaxing in the company of his Lord and Saviour, replete with fish and bread in the warmth of the morning sun? Or maybe he felt deeply uncomfortable, knowing that his denial of Jesus still hasn't been resolved and he aches in the knowledge that he has let Jesus down. I wonder if he even feels that he doesn't deserve to be in the presence of Jesus.

And I wonder how often we feel like that. We know that we have let God down and perhaps even doubt that he loves us. We certainly feel that we don't deserve God's love and affirmation.

As we listen in to the exchange between Jesus and Peter, we discover something amazing about the way Jesus loves and cares for us.

"Simon, son of John"

Using Peter's full title, Jesus gently but firmly engages his whole attention. It is as though Jesus is saying; 'I know – I know your past, your family, your hopes and I know your struggles; but now I want to talk with you.' Using Peter's full title, maybe even suggests that a covenant is about to be made, a sacred interaction.

Imagine for a moment that Jesus calls you – gently, but firmly, by your full name. Has he engaged your attention I wonder?

And then we have that beautiful and challenging exchange where Jesus asks Peter three times whether he loves him? Three times to mirror the three denials of Peter when he insisted that he didn't know Jesus after his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus uses the Greek word 'agape' for love; a word that reflects the deepest expression of love that is possible, a sacrificial love, a love in which you promise to stand with the other, whatever the cost. I suspect that Peter yearns to answer in the same way, but knowing his past failures, he responds by affirming his love for Jesus, but using the Greek word, 'philo'; a word that expresses brotherly love, or the love of friendship. In each of the three exchanges, Peter is unable to commit himself to Jesus with agape love.

As Jesus looks us in the eye, I wonder how we would respond to the same question? I suspect we are like Peter. We want to say, 'Lord, I want to love you, my intentions are good, but I am weak and lack the courage to stand firm in my faith. I do love you, it's not good enough, but it's all I can offer today'

As with Peter, Jesus knows our hearts, he understands our weaknesses, aches with us in our sadness and holds our yearnings. As with Peter, Jesus looks us in our eyes with love and forgiveness. He wants us to know that our best is good enough, and that he will walk with us on our journey of faith, with all its wrong turnings, lack of perseverance and uncertainties about the destination. Jesus then refers prophetically to Peter's death, a death that reveals that Peter's love for Jesus has grown in maturity and conviction, an agape love in which Peter sacrificed his life for the sake of the good news of Jesus.

Imagine for a moment that Jesus is looking at you with love. Maybe you're not even sure what to say or how to respond. Be sure however that Jesus knows your heart and He says to you:

"You are forgiven"

"You are loved"

"I am calling you by your name"

"I know you"

"I love you"

But as with Peter, Jesus doesn't leave the conversation there. He has a final command:

"Follow Me"

So today, reflecting on this story and the promise of forgiveness, that flows out from the abundant love Jesus has for you, in the full knowledge of all your mistakes, know that Jesus is calling you, like he called Peter, to 'follow me'.

Spend a few moments praying about this invitation and talking to Jesus about your answer.

FINAL PRAYER

Jesus, you meet me at the water's edge of my ordinary life. You accept me lovingly, you encourage me, you invite me to abundance. Nourished by the food of your word, warmed by the fire of your unfailing love, may I in turn nourish, heal and love those I meet today.

AMEN



A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE BEACH NEAR TABGHA

By Marion Hitchins

At the end of 2019 I had the privilege and joy of going on a group pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Since I returned, many people have asked me:

“What was your favourite bit?”, “Which of the Biblical sites did you like best?” and “Where did you feel closest to God?”

Of course, we had been to all the major sites, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and many more so I think I have surprised many of them, when I have answered *‘the beach’!*

The beach in the picture is the one I am talking about. It is near Tabgha on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. It is a fairly ordinary beach with some sand and rocks. On the day that we were there the sun was shining brightly, the sea looked very blue and the waves were lapping gently on the beach. Built alongside the beach is a church. This one is a relatively modern, Franciscan church, but a church has stood on this site since the 4th century. It is the name of the church that gives a clue to the significance of this beach. It is called St Peter Primacy, because this is the beach where it is believed Jesus met with his disciples after his resurrection and cooked breakfast for them and where Jesus restored Peter to his place amongst the disciples and gave him the command to go and feed his sheep. I believe in the ancient Celtic notion of “thin places”. They are defined as places where Heaven and Earth almost meet and the Divine is more easily accessed. Where Time and Eternity collide. For me this beach was the thinnest place I have ever visited. I felt completely awestruck, lost for words as the presence of God filled this place.

Take some time to look at the photo, reflect on Marion’s words about this being a thin place where Time and Eternity collide. Read this poem by Mary Fleeson as you imagine perhaps that you too are on that beach with the water lapping, as you share breakfast with Jesus

*Just wait a moment.
Breathe deep.
Be still.
Imagine
The incredible, astounding,
Life-changing, mind-blowing fulfillment
Of ages-old prophecy.
Just remember.
Breathe deep.
Be still.
Understand
That you are part
Of that amazing story.
His story is your story.*

from 'He is Here' by Mary Fleeson

A HUMOUROUS PERSPECTIVE ON JOHN 21 A BBQ ON THE BEACH!

A bunch of disciples were down by the sea
Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, the sons of Zebedee
All at a loose end, hanging out by the shore,
'Til Simon Peter felt he couldn't stand it anymore.

'I'm going fishing', he declared, and up he got,
So, they all went with him, but not a thing they caught.
All night in the boat, not one fish in their net,
Silently thinking, 'How much worse can it get?'

Well the sun came up and sky turned bright,
And some guy was on the beach in the morning light.
"Did you catch some breakfast?" he called with a grin,
Peter muttered, "No", and thought, "Don't rub it in".

But the stranger yelled "Throw your net to the other side.
And see what happens out there on the tide."
Peter rolled his eyes, and shrugged, "What does he know?"
But they cast the net out into the lake below.

Suddenly they felt a pull, the boat lurched and swayed.
A net full of thrashing fish, a gleaming haul displayed.
Such a catch! They barely had the strength to heave it in.
And then they knew the stranger, "It's Jesus, yes it's him!"

Peter threw his clothes on, dived in and swam ahead.
To where the Lord had a laid a fire and cooked up fish and bread.
The mammoth catch was landed, the net untorn;
In a beach breakfast, a new beginning was born.

"Peter, do you love me?", "*You know Lord, I do!*"
"Peter, do you love me?", "*You know Lord, it's true!*"
"Peter, do you love me?", "*Lord, you know everything!*"
"Then feed my sheep, and to your God such glory you will bring"

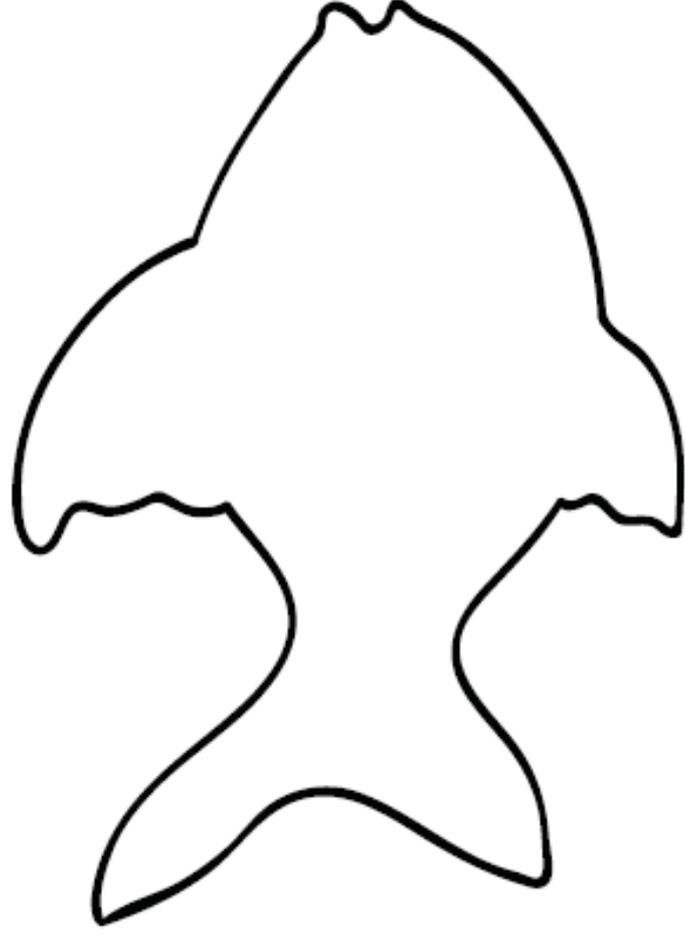
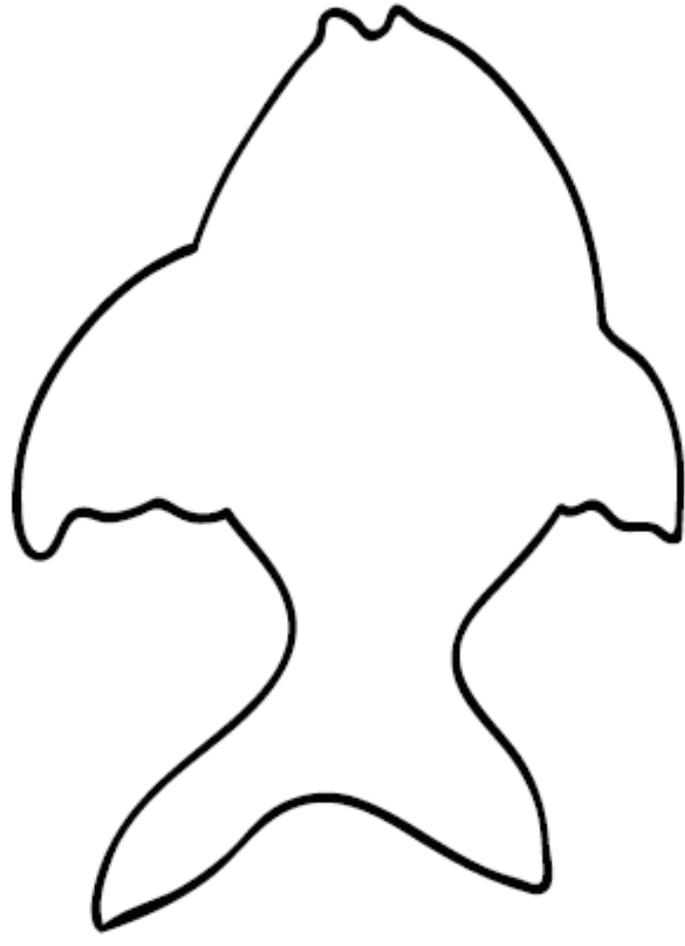
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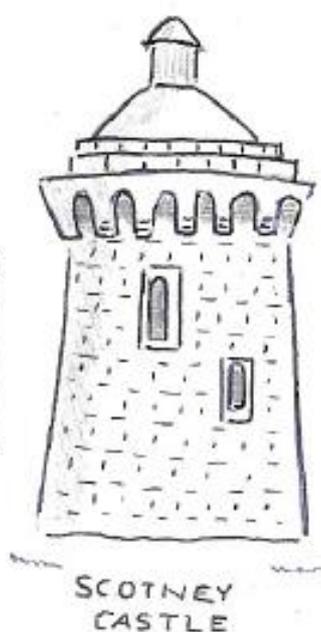
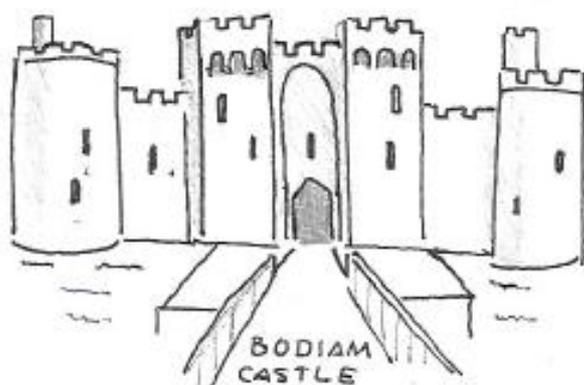
A SONNET FOR ST PETER

Malcolm Guite

Impulsive master of misunderstanding
You comfort me with all your big mistakes;
Jumping the ship before you make the landing,
Placing the bet before you know the stakes.
I love the way you step out without knowing,
The way you sometimes speak before you think,
The way your broken faith is always growing,
The way he holds you even when you sink.
Born to a world that always tried to shame you,
Your shaky ego vulnerable to shame,
I love the way that Jesus chose to name you,
Before you knew how to deserve that name.
And in the end your Saviour let you prove
That each denial is undone by love.

Fish Shapes
(Set 2)





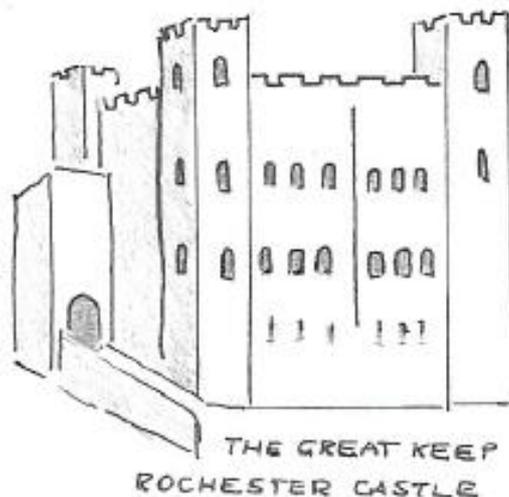
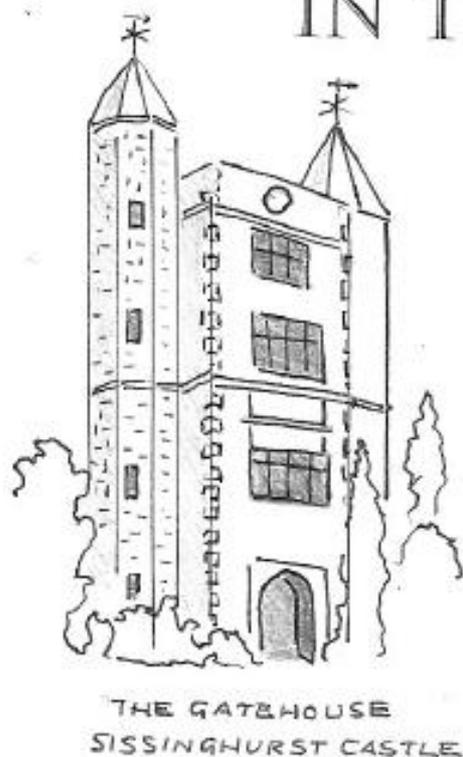
THE LORD

IS A

STRONGHOLD

IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

PSALM 9:9



TIME FOR LUNCH
With
PAT'S BAKED SALMON TRICOLORE



Not quite a fish barbeque on the beach, but a simple recipe to try that has been recommended by Pat Morton. We hope you will enjoy giving it a go and then when social distancing has been lifted, you'll have a recipe ready to cook for your friends! And in the meantime, a delicious meal to brighten up the day! Thanks to Pat for sharing this and if you're able to, why not take a photo and we will share in our next Vintage Adventure pack.

INGREDIENTS

1 large avocado
1 tbsp lemon juice
2 large tomatoes - thickly sliced
2 tbsp mayonnaise
3 tbsp Parmesan cheese
2 salmon fillets
1 crushed garlic
1 tbsp olive oil
Season to taste

METHOD

Cut avocado in half and slice thickly, peel and stone removed!
Arrange in single layer in baking dish, sprinkle with lemon juice.
Place tomatoes in dish, drizzle with a little oil, add seasoning.
Mix the mayonnaise with the cheese.
Lay the fish on top of avocado and tomatoes and spread the mayonnaise mixture on top of the fish, drizzle with a little more oil.
Bake for 20 to 25 minutes until fish is cooked through.

Oven 200C, 400F, Gas 6.

Pat says: "*Very simple and nutritious and I hope you will enjoy!*"

A POEM FOR CONFINEMENT

April in the city
The blossom's very pretty.
No one in the street.
Are they all asleep?
Birds are singing loudly,
Boris speaking proudly.
We are all confined,
Highfield doesn't seem to mind.
Gardens in the sunshine.
The church is all on-line.
But spare a thought for people
Whose children are kept in all.
They're longing to be out
And not allowed to shout.
'cos dad is on the night shift
Tending sick ones who've been biffed
By something you can't see.
Thank God it wasn't me!

And thank you Caraway
For showing us the way,
That we can keep in touch.
You give us all so much.
So, till we're out again
We don't know who to blame.
Stay healthy and say safe
And try to keep the faith.

Gillian Gain April 2020

Breakfast on the Beach

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. John 21:12 (NIV)

Based on John 21:1-14



L V B R E A K F A S T E Z N Z
R O T U F U L L Z X B U F M Y
X Z H R N B R V G P A X V M R
J D I S C I P L E S I R I T I
J L N E T J M F B F I S H U T
C C O W O X E C Y O P K F D M
K K Z R V Z F S F M A H S X F
X R Y M D H D P U L T T E A M
K E B B Q I M C Y S R R C L R
N S R S E A R P O U O F R I V
Y F E E R E C P S H C E M L F
K I A G T N J O S H T V J I C
T R D A Q I T V A E N X Q M R
C E W M D K Z R P L C C R W D
Q G N E R D F F J S S R P C B

FIRE

WATER

BREAKFAST

BOAT

FISH

SEA

COALS

NET

BREAD

DISCIPLES

PETER

FULL

LORD

SHORE

JESUS