

MUSINGS FROM THE MANSE

No. 16 – 9th May. 2021



Water. We are approaching Christian Aid Week. The main theme this year is Global Warming and its effects on all of us. One of many issues raised is the future of our water supplies. It is such a basic need, all life needs water but there soon may not be enough left in the form we can use.

H₂O Most people know that chemical symbol. Its chemical formula is H₂O, meaning that each of its molecules contains one oxygen and two hydrogen atoms. "**Water**" is the name of the liquid state of H₂O. Water can rapidly turn from being a liquid to a solid – ice to gas - steam. This imagery is often used to illustrate the Trinity but when you think about it the concept doesn't really work.

Water covers 71% of the earth's surface, our so-called blue planet. While in Queensland I took this photo. A fantastic beach that ran for 20 miles crystal clear sea, but if you notice there is a white square in the centre of the picture.



This is the only part you can swim in. Fine nets forming a wall are attached to the floats, why? To keep jelly fish at bay. There are three main types, they all sting. Two will give you the equivalent of a bad bee sting the other one could kill you. Such beauty but with hidden dangers.

Water, water, every where,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, every where,
Nor any drop to drink.

*"The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by Samuel
Taylor Coleridge text 1834.*

So much sea water but it's undrinkable and not much use for irrigation. It costs so much to desalinate. It is predicted that sea level will rise due to the effect of Global Warming melting icebergs, low level coast lines and small remote Pacific islands will be flooded. We must act now to conserve and distribute water supplies to those who struggle to find sources of fresh water. We either have too much or too little. Floods and droughts. Remember droughts in the UK in 1976 and 2006. Hosepipe bans and bath with a friend?!

Water is mentioned a total of 722 times in the **Bible**, more often than faith, hope, prayer, and worship. In the **Bible**, it doesn't take long for **water** to be mentioned. Right away in **Genesis** 1:2, "*The earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.*" Water is such an essential component of life; it was created on the very first day. In The Book of **Revelation** water is mentioned again, and it is almost the last words of the Bible. Revelation 22:17, "*The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.' And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.*" Water flows throughout the scripture, and this should remind us of its importance...both spiritually and physically. Jesus offers the water of life to all who believe in Him.

Bible study ACTS 16. 12th May 7:00pm.

Answers to last week's Bible based questions.

1. 350 years.
2. Curse (KJV).
3. Saul.
4. Aaron
5. John Wycliffe in 1382

This week

1. What kind of wood was Noah's ark built from?
2. The Bible was written in three languages - Hebrew, Koine Greek and which other language?
3. Who took the place of Judas in the twelve disciples?
4. Who, following Moses' death, became the leader of the children of Israel?
5. In the bible, who is said to have lived on a diet of locusts and wild honey?

Andrew and Jill