

# CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

As you may or may not know, I have always loved a bargain – and as Graham and I have both discovered in the past, these can often be found on ebay. Indeed some of you will be only too familiar with the 3D Dalek flannels, the childrens books, beach balls and star wars pencil cases that I bought for various fundraisers because they were a “good deal”. Unfortunately however, not all of my purchases have been such a bargain.

One incident really sticks in my mind - Someone was selling a job lot of “stuff your own” teddy bears and other animals – as it was “buyer collects” and rather badly listed I thought it might be worth putting in a cheeky offer and was really pleased when I won the auction with a bid of £20. The following day Graham and I set out to collect my purchases, however, what we were presented with was not at all what we had been expecting. Instead of a couple of boxes of limp teddies we were given 11 great big boxes of very large and tacky animals of the type they give away as prizes at fun fairs and theme parks. Despite the fact that we removed most of them from the boxes before stuffing them into the back of the car it still took us two journeys. Although they were



definitely very cheap for what they were, there was no way that we could ever use them, so far from having found a bargain, I had a very full garage and a rather unhappy husband. If only I had read the listing properly and looked more closely at the picture I might have had at least some idea of what I

was letting myself in for – but then again, I was probably too busy looking for a really good deal.

It could be said that Jesus’ followers fell into the same sort of trap 2000 years ago. They believed all the things that had been said about Jesus – that he was the Son of God and the King of the Jews, they had seen him perform numerous miracles – including raising people from the dead and when in John 2v19 he said to the Jewish authorities, “destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up”, they genuinely thought he was talking about the building that they all attended for worship. However, despite the many warnings Jesus had given them during their time together, they simply didn’t see the certain reality that was the cross. Although it was always part of God’s plan, Jesus’ death was never part of theirs – but perhaps that’s because they, like so many of us, were too busy looking for a “really good deal” on their own terms.

One can only imagine how this group of people must have felt as they watched all their hopes for the future die in agony, as they laid his body in the tomb and then gathered together in fear behind locked doors in an effort to come to terms with the situation and decide what



The vicar had assured the vergers that the clock repairers had promised to come as soon as possible

to do next. This did not appear to be a good deal after all.

But then from the depths of despair came the heights of elation – Jesus had broken through the barrier of death and was once again walking the earth. It was only then that the penny started to drop – there was far more to life – real life, than can be found on this earth and in these mortal bodies, and Jesus had come to show the whole world the way to achieve this.

It's a way that's as valid today as it's ever been, it's a way with Jesus at the

centre, one where he can be our guide, companion and support at all times if we just look to him in faith. It's a way that can help us cope with whatever life might throw at us, it's a way that can give us true peace no matter how stormy the conditions may seem and it's a way that

gives us a real hope for a future that is far beyond the imaginings of this mortal world.

And that must be the very best deal of all.

Please do contact me if you would like to find out more, or would simply like a chat with no questions asked or expectations made.

Wishing you all a very blessed and peaceful Easter.

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