

Rudgwick

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From the Vicar

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Dear Friends

If you have been past the Church recently on your daily exercise you will have seen that the scaffolding by the tower has finally come down and I'm happy to report that the valley gutter between the Nave and North Aisle is once again water tight. Whilst from the outside, the Church once again looks in good condition, inside it is a different story. By the time you read this, scaffolding will have gone up inside the church and the repairs to the water damaged ceiling will be underway.

It got me thinking about Jesus' words to the Pharisees about the difference between our outward appearance and our heart. He said "*you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ... First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.*" They are harsh words, but a reminder that life is about more than outward appearances – our character is far more important than how outwardly successful we are.

Character is always difficult to change, as it is formed through experiences we go through, however that formation is as much down to how we decide to respond to those events – and that is, in part, a decision of the will.

Traditionally Lent – which we are in this month – is a time for reflection and self-examination, so let me encourage you to spend some time thinking about the inside of your own 'cup', your character and what 'repairs' you might want to make.

Every blessing

Martin King