I ‘booted up’ my laptop & it didn’t automatically connect to internet, despite a few attempts, till I rebooted.

I wondered if there might be times when we (individually and/or as a parish) are not connected to God and need a ‘reboot’. In Matthew 10.24-39 there is a certain amount of disconnect going on. Is there some kind of disconnect in being a disciple? If I never experience this disconnect perhaps I have missed something?!

Some sources of disconnect in these verses:

* vv24-25: we should not expect an easier life than what Jesus got – we will get called names!
* vv26-27: secrets will be uncovered – think about those secrets you harbour!
* v28: rephrase as: don’t be afraid of Covid-19, which can kill the body, but cannot kill the soul.
* vv29-31: you are more valuable than many sparrows, though often we fail to truly believe this.
* vv32-33: don’t be ashamed of being known as belonging to Jesus
* vv34-39: being disciples disrupts life, including family relations.   
  “Worst enemies are members of your own family” – is this also true of the church family?

Last week I talked about our core purpose – worship, fellowship and mission.

Is this the ruler by which we measure our personal and parish life and activity?   
Think about some Parish activities and ask “where does *this* fit into the core purpose?”

Is Jesus also the ruler by which we measure our personal and parish life and activity?

In the TV programme “I’m a Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here” they often have to try to eat some strange items (eg. locusts, grubs) – most of us would refuse, but what if our lives depended upon it?

Would we do difficult things for God if our life with God depended upon it?

It is tempting to read Matthew 10.24-39 and feel guilty. We are not the disciples we should be. How can we face up to this passage without that guilt? Remember the passage was spoken to disciples who all failed. It is less about being perfect, and more about being honest with ourselves and having another go.

In the car children often say “Are we nearly there yet?” We may not be nearly there, but we’re on the way.

John Bunyan, in the hymn Who Would True Valour See, might have believed in hobgoblins and foul fiends, and we might not, but evil does abound, and that evil tries to stop us acting on our faith. How determined are you about continuing to be a pilgrim?