

Queuing for the narrow road

Dear friends,
word 'narrow' that seems such a challenging word in today's world.

What is it about the

If someone is described as 'narrow-minded' they are thought to be lacking in flexibility, perhaps lacking imagination, a little set in their ways or maybe even prejudiced. Whatever the interpretation, the word narrow in relation to a person is lacking in positive aspects.

On the other hand, being broad-minded is considered a virtue in our age. Having wide experience in a particular field is considered a good thing on a CV. By contrast, having limited experience, scope or ability would not draw you to a would-be employer.

The only context in which narrow might be considered an achievement is in the phrase a 'narrow escape'.

Yet on the last day of this month we are going to be invited to tread a narrow road to freedom, following in the footsteps of Jesus. The Riding Lights Theatre Company is coming to St Hilda's on March 31st

The acclaimed Christian touring company is going to be staging a passion play entitled 'The Narrow Road'. This is what the publicity for the play says:

*"Amid the heat and beauty of ancient Palestine, a man stands on a dusty road. An extraordinary journey will take place; one which will re-trace the footsteps of Jesus into a world of miracles and madness, violence and liberation. As **The Narrow Road** is walked, this turbulent world is turned upside down; its inhabitants confronted by an unexpected and surprising vision. Meeting the characters and re-living the events of the gospels, this passion story takes its audience back along that original road, through the place of the cross and into the challenge of a life beyond. Compellingly performed, **The Narrow Road** asks each of us to review the understanding and practice of our own faith in relation to that journey today."*

As we enter Lent, our Christian tradition teaches us and encourages us to walk a narrow road of self-discipline and self-sacrifice. The narrow road might be described as the path less trodden.

Some have chosen to take up the challenge of a 'retreat in daily life' - where, with the help of a prayer guide, they will commit to discipline themselves to pray daily using scripture as their inspiration.

Others of have signed up to beat a path to the church hall on five Wednesday evenings to explore in more depth the meaning of the Cross of Jesus.

Still others are considering other ways of dedicating themselves to drawing closer to God and serving others.

Jesus said, in Matthew 7.14: "Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Jesus also said in John 10.10: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

What an interesting contrast: Jesus offering a full life but a narrow road.

May each of us discover more of Jesus' offer of the fullness of his life. There could be quite a queue on the narrow road. Hope you don't mind waiting. But to avoid disappointment, book your tickets for the play early!

PAUL

