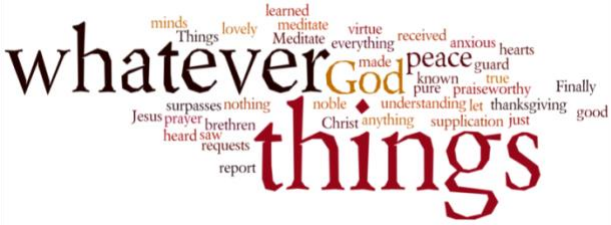

THINK ON THESE THINGS…..

Reading: Philippians 3:12 - 14

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Reflection:

One of the great joys of the Exe estuary is the ability to either walk or cycle from Exmouth on the one side, right around to Dawlish and even beyond on the other side. There is also the opportunity to cycle right in to Exeter itself, a challenge which we decided to take on one morning.

Keeping one eye on the weather, we began the 12-mile journey. We managed to get to within 4 miles of our destination, when we noticed the skies darkening, and a decision had to be made. The lure of a Coffee shop in Topsham (just over a mile away) or the 3 mile trip to Exeter Quays – which one do you think won the vote?

We made it to the coffee shop with seconds to spare and the heavens opened! However, we were determined to make the trip to Exeter, and 2 days later we did it!

Pressing on to get hold of the prize is what Paul was encouraging his listeners to do. Of all people he recognised the difficulties the Philippians had to face, however by keeping their focus, the prize would be theirs.

As we move through these strange times, it is really hard for all of us to remain focussed, particularly as none of us know how long we are going to have to live with this virus. What we do know is that one day there will be a vaccine, and although that will take time, massive progress has already been made. Until that day, let's be patient and faithful, keeping our eyes firmly focussed on the greatest prize of all, our lives in Christ!

Breath-Prayer for Today: Lord Jesus, continue to encourage me to be patient as I struggle through the implications of this pandemic, and to know that someday it will all be over, and that the prize of being able to be together as a body of Christ will be ours!