

# Thought for the Week



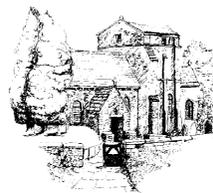
## Thought for the Week

I was cheered when I discovered again a quotation that had been niggling in my memory. It was from H. G. Wells, to the effect that there is in all of us something greater than the self of the shop window which all the world can see. Wells called it 'the self behind the frontage'. That quotation suggested to me three selves which are expressions of our personality. Our earliest one is identified with the body. Other people recognize us by our

appearance, our physical characteristics, the way we walk or talk. As they get to know us better, they realize that there is something inward, which somehow expresses itself through the outward and visible, yet not so easy to define. Most of us keep that inner self secret to ourselves, hiding our delusions of grandeur or ambition, as well as the things we think or do of which we are ashamed. H. G. Wells clearly thought that there was an innate potential of something good, even noble about this inner self. We sometimes speak of it as our better self. The deepest self of all is the one which God wants us to be and which we can become by divine help. In the most movingly human of our Lord's stories, that of the prodigal son, Jesus pictures him as having spent all his inheritance, lost all his friends, reduced to feeding pigs and even sharing their food. Jesus adds 'when he came to himself', implying that there was still something basic left.

Nowadays people speak of improving the image we present to other people. The only credible way is by improving the inmost self. Sooner or later this will shine through. A psalmist puts the hope into a daring prayer: 'Try me, O God, and seek the ground of my heart: prove me, and examine my thoughts.' (BCP)

George Appleton



## St Nicholas' Church, Studland

Welcome to St Nicholas this morning!  
Thank you for joining us.

We hope you will enjoy our worship together.  
You are also very welcome to join our live "Zoom"  
services at 6.30pm each Sunday.

Just contact: [revtonyhiggins@btinternet.com](mailto:revtonyhiggins@btinternet.com)

Readings for this Sunday are:

10.00am Genesis 50.15-21, Romans 14.1-12

SUNDAY  
13<sup>th</sup> September

10.00am

Holy Communion

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**Collect:** Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Post Communion:** Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.