

## St James News: Thought for the day – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### Roller Coasters and Roundabouts – Rev John Marshall

Thoughts pop into my head. And I started to think about my favourite roller coaster or similar. I suspect my fairground days are past, but it is good to look back.

I love the look of them, and the lights and the music, but I am not so keen on the rides. We once went on the Wild Waves at John Carter's steam fair on Clapham Common; I was holding on very tight, Jo as a small child was looking for her lost shoe, and perfectly happy. She and I once found ourselves on the runaway train at Chessington, the ride seemingly went on and on – they were taking photographs and for years after we could see ourselves at the back of their publicity material.

I did find roller coasters conducive to prayer – I liked the Boomerang at Bellewaerde in Belgium, where you went upside down and backwards, Praise God.

When we were at Spanish City in Whitley Bay, it was quiet and cold and a fast roundabout ride went on for ages; it put me off for years. Until I rediscovered big rides when taking pupils and students who had to have an adult to help; that made me braver.

These words from Psalms may help with roller coasters and other situations.

Psalm 56.3-4

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise – in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

Psalm 55.22 Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.

Psalm 46.1-3 God is our refuge and strength an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way, and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

He says Be still and know that I am God. v 10