



Cross-words!

I had every intention of steering clear of Easter, leaving that for colleagues writing nearer to Easter but in my reading recently, I came across a relevant sentence that challenged me and caused me to reconsider;

‘It is nearly Easter, and we will hang crosses on the walls of our homes and churches. How do we think of it when it’s a decoration?’

My mind went not only to the crosses which, as we focus on the love and sacrifice of the cross, will rightly feature prominently in our churches in the coming days and to Palm Crosses but I thought too of the crosses that many choose to wear around their necks. Is that a decision to witness to faith, a fashion statement or something else?

A US House Representative recently made the news when she unleashed a barrage of criticism on a UK journalist. I don’t want to get into the politics – clearly, anyone who has ever watched any political coverage will have witnessed reporters asking questions and politicians finding ways to avoid or simply ignore the question. That is part of the regular routine.

For me, this particular exchange was jaw-dropping for two reasons; the first was the way the Representative simply dismissed the question – not because there was anything wrong with the question but because she felt the reporter had no right to ask it, that she should instead be focusing on all the women raped by immigrants in the UK!

Both her manner and her tone were rude and aggressive but the thing that really struck me was the simple gold cross hanging around the Representative’s neck. Decorative? Faith symbol? I’ve no idea but for those of us who profess faith, authentic Christianity demands a change in the way we conduct ourselves and the way we engage with others.

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