

REV'D DR NICK GRIFFIN

Have you ever completely and utterly missed the point? Turn to the person next to you and have a chat.

I remember playing Tetris for the first time and getting all the bricks to go to the top – why do grown ups think it's so hard – I won in 5 seconds. What were they all complaining about? Or when we tried to play netball in primary school and I did not understand why the teacher wouldn't let me bounce and run...what is wrong with these people!

Humans are confronted everyday with thousands, millions of data points. How fast something is moving, the weight of gravity, whether we need to eat or drink, go to the bathroom, what that person said and what they meant, whether Donald Trump will run again or whether Liz Truss or what colour sofa to buy or whether the dog needs different food, we look upon a tree and see 50,000 leaves all different shades glinting in the light in different fashion...thousands upon thousands. And the way we deal with it – is just ignoring whole bits of life like when you click 'yes' on the Ts and C's without reading them...or the bit on the radio ad, when it's just too fast to even hear...

Humans filter stuff out. We intentionally don't see stuff, so that we can focus and get stuff done. This is a good skill and without we just need to go and lie down. But...the risk...the risk is that by focusing down, you can miss the point. You can't see the forest for the trees. That's especially the case with big stuff, like...the meaning of life...how to pray...God – these just get put in that messy draw of your brain that is too scary to even open. But take a moment...what is the meaning of my life...this is how the church has concluded the Lord's prayer:

'For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, forever and ever, Amen'

We've been going through the Lord's prayer for some time – and I don't know if you've noticed how this last bit we always pray isn't in the original version. It's in some manuscripts- not in others we can talk about that if you're worried but it is actually from the Old Testament book called 1Chronicles. when King David – is coming to the end of his life. And you know he didn't have a good vehicle for his mid-life crisis. It was polygamous – he already had a younger wife – he couldn't buy a Ferrari – he thinks about his legacy – what will people remember me for. What is my life really about and for? And so he says, to say thank you to God – I'll build him a temple – people will say yeah – David's temple. My life will have meant something. Y'know it's easy in church to laugh or say 'oh no he should have learnt' but truly this is what most of us spend our lives on. We worry about cars, houses, even families. A way to leave our mark – a dream of immortality. But even as we do it, we know those things won't cut it. Because look around. We die. In the church are memorials left to people – well respected and probably rich people – but unless you're an actual historian – they're not remembered. Do you know the names of your great, great grandparents? I don't. If you look at the stones, even graven names on stones...eventually forget us. Wow Nick. Way to hit

the depression button. Nice introduction to the picnic. Here's what God says to David in response:

'Are you the one to build me a house to live in?

'The Lord declares I will establish a house for you...when you rest with your Fathers – I will establish a kingdom for you...he will build my house.

getting all the monies ready for the building of the temple spills out in prayer and praise over into this