

Crowland Abbey

**REVD MARK WILLIAMS,
PRIEST IN CHARGE**



The other day, I was at a meeting that overran – nothing unusual, you might think, but it was very tight for my next appointment. I dashed out of the meeting, and to my car, only to find it totally blocked in by 2 other cars. It took a good 25 minutes to hunt down the driver of the nearest car, and quite a bit of manoeuvring to work past the other one. The driver apologised... and I must confess, I was slightly less than gracious in my response. The irony was that, at the meeting that overran, I had spoken briefly about our inability to accept weakness and failure. Hoist by my own petard!

I'm usually pretty laid-back (some would say positively horizontal!), but being in what the late great Northumberland folk singer Vin Garbutt referred to as the 'homophobic (as in hating humankind – homo sapiens) xenophobic module' that is the motor car, can bring out the worst in me. I get so wound up by the driver that does 40mph on a 60mph road, then continues at the same speed when it reduces to 30... the driver who doesn't acknowledge with a wave that I have stopped to allow them to pass... and even the driver who does not wave me back in acknowledgement of my wave of thanks to them for pulling over...!

We all have our little foibles and weaknesses – something that might wind us up something chronic, but has no effect on others. Part of getting on together, in society in general, and specifically in the church, is the ability to see behind the person who has touched our sore spot to see the person loved by God... who probably didn't even notice what they did... and who may well have something really difficult happening in their own life – we just don't know!

Kyrie Eleison – Lord have mercy!

Mark
Priest in Charge of Crowland