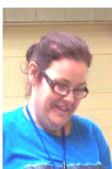


Life after Alpha

by Dawn Robertson



Once I had finished the Alpha Course earlier this year I was invited by Helen to join a group in church with two other people to look together at what it means to follow Jesus.

We have been meeting for roughly 9 months. In our sessions we read and discuss bible stories and how they translate into our lives today and what we can do ourselves to live the lives that Jesus wants us to live.

We also look at our own lives and experiences and how having a closer relationship with Jesus can and does, help in all aspects of life.

As a group we have all grown in faith and enjoy the fellowship and opportunity to learn, pray and grow together.

I personally feel that doing this once a week has encouraged me to have more time to pray and stop and think. I feel I deal with situations a lot better now. I feel I have become a lot closer to Jesus and have welcomed him into my everyday life. Meeting in our small group each week helps to affirm the positive changes that have happened, and I hope will continue to happen, as I and the others in the group open our lives to Jesus.

A Story from Joyce

Picture a small Indian lady, about 50 years old with a long plait of hair going down her back, a Roman Catholic called Fatima. She works at St. Joseph's Hospice caring for the patients there. She has worked and lived there for 29 years.

Fatima looked after Beryl bodily and spiritually. Beryl's skin was that of a young woman with the help of all the cream Fatima used to rub in. She would pray for us both each day. Beryl had to go back to Fazakerly Hospital quite frequently when she was in the Hospice and Fatima would come to visit her bearing gifts.

One day my nephew John, on a visit to Beryl, said, "She reminds me of a nun – Mother Theresa" I thought to myself I should tell her, which I did, not knowing how she would take it. A big smile crossed her face and she said, "Me? I applied to be a nun aged 18, 25 and 35, but the priest said I would be better working here at St. Joseph's. I didn't find out until after Beryl had died that Fatima was a fully licensed Lay Preacher. She prayed with us in the hours before Beryl passed on and immediately afterwards.

I haven't seen Fatima since, but hope to when I can arrange for a tree to be planted in memory of Beryl in the Forest of Remembrance at St Joseph's. I just thought you would like to read about this good lady who loved everyone instead of me always being sad.

Sometimes we meet people who have a huge impact on us and who do so without them knowing it. Joyce met Fatima as she cared for Beryl and as you can read left a profound impression on Joyce. Let's hope and pray that our actions have the same impact on those we meet.

Remembrance Sunday

This year was a poignant year as we gathered at both Christ Church and Holy Trinity to remember those who gave so much for the freedom we have today, but especially in our commemorations of WW1.

Holy Trinity has a number of plaques situated within the building which name the men from both the church and parish who went to serve in the forces and a window dedicated in their memory. There is also a memorial dedicated to Boys Bigade members who joined the army.



At Christ Church it was good to welcome Tony Wainright [local WW1 historian] to unveil our memorial plaque situated outside the building on Walton Breck Rd. This will now be a permanent memorial that our community will be able to see and focus on for Remembrance Day Services each year.

In his address to the crowd gathered for the service, Tony spoke of the Liverpool 'Pals' and how many of them had been members of Holy Trinity church and of course the cost they and their families paid.



Christingle Services

will take place this year at Holy Trinity at 4pm on Christmas Eve, 24th December [making your own] and then on Sunday 11th January, 10.45am at Christ Church there will be an opportunity to make your own, have a coffee and then join together in worship. Why not come join us at either event or both. Any contributions will be given to the Children's Society.

'Jesus Light of the World'



Walton Breck News

December 2014

www.christchurchwb.org.uk
Telephone 0151 264 8006 or
email cc.wb@live.com

Is it to do with a Penguin?

The powerful advertising campaign steps up its gear for enticing each one of us to spend more money on Christmas and yet at the heart of the true meaning is a gift which is completely free, one offered to us by God in the gift of Jesus Christ.

The angels came and announced his birth to the shepherds with the words, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all on whom his favour rests.' That is still the gift today for us if we are prepared to receive him into our lives and that gift really isn't just for Christmas but for eternity. That peace comes from a new and living relationship with God and from this should stem everything else in our lives and for our world.

Especially poignant in this year's celebration is remembering the first Christmas of 1914. Troops heard the carol 'Silent Night' being sung something stirred within them, they put aside their weapons, climbed out of their trenches, wished each other Happy Christmas and played out their rivalry in a game of football. A temporary peace had come about through a common shared memory evoked by a carol sung about the one who is the 'Prince of Peace.' If only that encounter had been allowed to unfold!

The peace God offers us is tangible and can become the source of so much other lasting good for all our lives. We hope that you might in the middle of all the busyness of Christmas discover not just a penguin but the one born to die that we might live. May you have a Peace filled Christmas.

Why not join us at one of our Christmas celebrations?



Christmas @ Christ Church & Holy Trinity

Christ Church Walton Breck

Sunday 14th December, 6.30pm

Carols by Torchlight

Gift of Peace

Join us for coffee & cake

Sunday 21st December, 11am

Love Came Down at Christmas

Led by our children and young people

Wednesday 24th December, 11pm

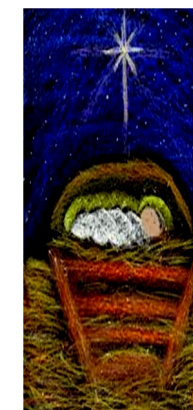
A Holy Night

Informal Communion & Worship

Thursday 25th December, 11am

Better than a Penguin!

Holy Communion for all the family



Holy Trinity

Sunday 14th December, 4pm

Carol Service

Church will be open 11.00am for a time of quiet prayer

Wednesday 24th December, 4pm

Christingle Service

Join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and make your own Christingle

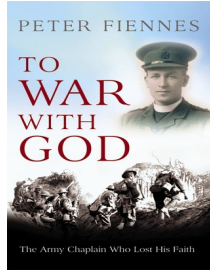
Thursday 25th December, 11am

Not What we Wanted but Needed

Holy Communion

Do You Know Anything about WW1?

So, asked a 13 year old boy of his father in 2008; the father told his son that he didn't but in the attic was a suitcase that belonged to his father who had served during the war as an Army Chaplain and this was full of photographs and papers. That question led to an amazing discovery as father and son opened the case and discovered an incredible story largely unknown by the family of the Rev. Edward Montmorency Guildford. "Monty" a man who went to war, won the military cross and lost his faith.



Peter Fiennes whose little boy had asked the question, began a quest which would actually lead him to write a book about his father called "To War with God", based not just on his father's diaries and notes but on research compiled by him about the various battles and conflicts that his father lived and ministered through in WW1 from 1916 to 1919.

The book is an interwoven story, sometimes harrowing and complex, as a young cleric tries to work out his theology and its practice within the carnage of what he sees and

experiences. His first battle is the Somme, which clearly highlights how naïve his faith was. He had had no training for this except in a theological college and as a curate in rural Ince Blundell in the diocese of Liverpool, this did not prepare him for death and destruction on this scale of horror. On the first day of the Battle of the Somme the British suffered 60,000 casualties, Rev. G. A. Studdert Kennedy "Woodbine Willie" summed up a chaplain's dilemma in his dramatic way, "What the bloody hell is the church doing here? An amateur stretcher bearer or an amateur undertaker?"

"Monty" struggled with his role, 3 services in a Sunday, preparing soldiers for confirmation, so many funerals he lost count, organising football matches and other social events, mixing with troops in the trenches, handing, as many chaplains did, free cigarettes and offering as best he could words of hope and comfort.

Perhaps the biggest challenge for him came in 1917 when as a chaplain he was required to minister to a soldier who was to be executed for desertion. It was a duty that all chaplains had to undertake, the minimum requirement

was that a visit be made sometime during the evening before the soldier's execution. "Monty" stayed with the soldier all through the night, praying with him, writing a letter on his behalf to his wife and sharing a meal together. The next day he accompanied the prisoner to the place of execution, remained until his death, supervised the burial and then commended him to Almighty God. It was perhaps this experience which compounded all the struggles he had to live and work through as a Christian and a chaplain, a man called to uphold virtues of love, peace, forgiveness and reconciliation among the horrors of WW1. His Military Cross was awarded to him for bravery.

"Monty" didn't lose his faith but it had to be reconstructed and renewed. This took place after the war as he became the Youth Club leader at St. Martin-in-the-Fields church in London. Here he was helped by the Rev. Dick Shepperd who invited him to work there. He eventually returned to parish ministry serving as a parish priest living with his family in Oakham, a well respected and loved Parish Priest but few people knew what "Monty" had been through.

Dealing with Debt

Figures released recently show that demand for debt management in Liverpool is rising and that the number of people running into trouble and seeking solutions to debt problems is on the rise. One report states that personal insolvencies in Liverpool have risen by over 500% in recent years.

This is something that we come into contact with regularly at Christ Church as for the last four years we have been providing free help and advice at our Debt Advice Centre.

We have seen a lot of people during that time, from all walks of life, each with their own story to tell but all struggling to make ends meet.

The number of people we see can vary from week to week. Sometimes it is new clients, other times it is return visits by people we are in the process of helping or even old clients coming back to us with new problems or even just popping in to say hello and let us know how they are getting on.

The support we offer can range from just listening and providing advice to contacting a bailiff to stop the removal of belongings from someone's home. We see a lot of people with debt which has spiralled out of control. By the time people come to us for help their debts can sometimes be in the hands of a bailiff. This can seem like a hopeless situation for many with their debts increasing due to further charges and no means of



paying. They face constant attempts by collectors to contact them by letter, telephone and home visits and there is the possibility of the removal of their possessions to pay off the debt. Some of our clients will have attempted to discuss a payment arrangement but will have been told nothing but payment in full will do.

This may appear to them to be a hopeless situation but with immediate intervention we are normally able to negotiate with the bailiff and hopefully arrange a suitable repayment plan.

The immense sense of relief felt by our clients is obvious and with this immediate threat now removed they feel able to move on and look to the future. We sometimes find that once we have sorted out the urgent matters people feel more relaxed and able to tell us that 'maybe' they have other debts they may need help with and so we can then start the process of supporting people as we find the most appropriate way to help them take the first step on the road to being debt free.

We recognise the great need in this community for this service but to enable us to continue and expand this work we are in need of volunteers who are available during the day. If you think that it is something you would like to do or you know someone who may like to be involved please contact Helen on 264 8006 (or email cc.wb@live.com) for more information on what volunteering involves.

Foodbank@Holy Trinity

Every Monday morning, regular as clockwork, a small group of dedicated local volunteers gather at Holy Trinity Church, Breck Road, to offer assistance to members of the local community who, for many different reasons, are currently struggling financially.

North Liverpool Food bank has operated for a number of years from other sites in the Liverpool area, but for the last twelve months it has operated from Holy Trinity church premises offering emergency food parcels to those in financial distress, over a hot drink and with a sympathetic ear.

The Foodbank is open for business every Monday between 10am and midday and regularly services the requirements of between 20-30 individuals each week who, for one reason or another, without access to the Foodbank, would be without food. The generosity of the Liverpool community is remarkable with our shelves readily stocked with everyday

essentials from bread, beans and biscuits to toilet paper, tea and toothpaste.

The volunteers and those in need of help are overwhelmed by the kindness of others and wish to pass on their gratitude to everyone who donates items, with many former clients themselves returning to donate items, once they no longer require our support.

One gentleman who visited the Foodbank chatted over a cup of coffee telling us of how he had arrived at his current predicament. As he was receiving his food parcel, he told us that his mother had always advised him to work on Sundays and not to bother going to church, because "the church doesn't feed you"!

With gratitude for what he had received he said "I can see now that she was wrong" the following week he returned and donated two tins of soup for others less fortunate than himself.

We rely singularly on the bountifulness of others and without access to an unlimited supply of resources, our mandate can only be that of the provision of a short term solution, providing tangible assistance in bridging a financial shortfall. Whilst we are currently able to fulfil the number of requests for assistance that we receive, we can never be complacent and with the evidence that the number of individuals and families reliant on our support is increasing, we continue to gratefully accept any donations of food and toiletries from individuals or businesses.

Any donations can be deposited, and will be received with thanks, at Holy Trinity Church, Breck Road or Christ Church, Walton Breck Road opposite the Kop.

By Kevin Knowlson
Foodbank Volunteer



Our new Diocesan Bishop, the Right Reverend Paul Bayes



Bishop Paul comes from Bradford, West Yorkshire. A churchwarden's son, his spiritual and social life in the late 1950s and 1960s was formed by Sunday school, church choir and youth group.

Like many teenagers he decided in 1968 that all this was a waste of time, and in his University years he left the Christian faith behind and investigated a whole range of other spiritual and political options before re-encountering Jesus Christ as a living person, and committing himself to serve God within the ministry of the Church. He trained for ministry at an ecumenical college, Queen's Birmingham. The training involved an exchange with the Roman Catholic Oscott College, where the exchange programme was led by their vice-principal, Fr. Patrick Kelly, who later came to Merseyside as Archbishop of Liverpool. Paul met Kate at University and they married in 1976, so their ruby wedding is beginning to appear on the horizon.

Ordained in 1979, Paul served as a curate in Whitley Bay, Tyneside, before moving to London as a University chaplain. Here the emphasis was on building the church through small groups of disciples,

students and others, committed to serving God through social action and involvement and to struggling for justice and peace. Paul served as national co-chair of Christian CND and he and Kate were heavily involved in what was then called the Ecology Party, now the Greens.

After five years in London Paul and Kate moved to High Wycombe. Paul and his colleagues in St. John's High Wycombe, decided to multiply their Sunday congregations and to plant a new church, "Family Focus", aiming to bring the gospel to a new group of people alongside the existing work. This work flourished and the emphasis on finding appropriate ways to plant churches has remained central to Paul's ministry since then.

In 1995 the family moved to Totton, on the edge of Southampton. Here again the inherited life of the churches was complemented by church planting, and a church based on small groups (a "cell church") began to relate to parts of the community that other forms of church couldn't or didn't reach. After almost ten years in Totton, and twenty-five years in pastoral ministry, Paul moved to work for the Archbishop's Council in London as the Church of England's National Mission and Evangelism

advisor. This job involved developing and sharing ideas on the right way to shape the church for its mission in the new millennium. At this time the report "Mission-shaped church" was published and people began to work together in building fresh expressions of church, nowhere more so than in Liverpool Diocese. Alongside this work on the emerging church, Paul was involved in resourcing traditional church life through the national Weddings Project and through evangelistic initiatives such as 'Back to Church Sunday.'

Bishop Paul's Enthronement.

Bishop Paul is pictured here knocking on the door of Liverpool Cathedral on Saturday 15th asking to be allowed into the cathedral for his Enthronement Service. A packed cathedral welcomed him [and his wife Kate] to Liverpool Cathedral and the collection of £7000 was shared among projects like Food banks throughout the



We welcome Bishop Paul to Christ Church on Sunday 18th January at 11am to be our preacher.