

SHOTTERY *SEARCHLIGHT*



THE COLLATION, INDUCTION
AND INSTALLATION

Of

THE REVEREND CAPTAIN
CRAIG GROOCK

AS VICAR OF
SHOTTERY ST. ANDREW

By

THE RT. REVEREND DR.
CHRISTOPHER COCKSWORTH,
BISHOP OF COVENTRY

And

THE VENERABLE SUE FIELD, ARCHDEACON PASTOR

7.30pm WEDNESDAY 26th June.



2019

80p



WORSHIP

IN

JUNE

Each Sunday morning the 1662 Eucharist is celebrated at 8.00am

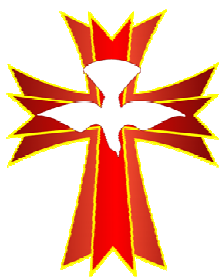
Each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm there is a Said Eucharist |(No service on 25th)

Every Thursday at 10am: Said Eucharist with Address

2nd: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.00am Family Service.

6.30pm Book of Common Prayer Eucharist



9th: PENTECOST

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Fellow Travellers

6.30pm Evensong

16th: TRINITY SUNDAY (and Music Sunday)

10.00am Third Sunday Service with the RSCM

6.30pm Evensong.

23rd: FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Fellow Travellers

6,309pm Sung Evensong

26th: 7.30pm Collation, Induction and Installation of Revd. Captain Craig Grocock at Vicar of Shottery St. Andrew.

30th: SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY;

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Sung Evensong.





MESSAGE OF THE MONTH FROM JOAN WHYMAN

I am really sad that I will be unable to attend the Induction, Collation and Installation of Revd. Craig Grocock as he and his wife are welcomed into our midst here at St. Andrew's, for I will be away on retreat from 19th to 28th of June.

Very early in the year I began to plan for my annual time of retreat at St. Beuno's Spirituality Centre in North Wales. It is a very special place and, as a result, 8 day Individually Guided Retreats are very quickly fully booked. 'But why does it have to be St. Beuno's?' you may well be asking. About 30 years ago I embarked upon a 2 year course of training to be a Spiritual Director. It was led by a Jesuit priest, Father Gerard Hughes, whom some of you may recall wrote a wonderful book called, 'God of Surprises.' He and many participants on the course spoke so inspirationally and fondly of this centre for retreats and training, that I harboured a desire for many years to stay there. In 2017 that desire was fulfilled and I was not disappointed.

The need to make time and space for prayerful silence has been very important to me for many years now and consequently a variety of retreat centres and, of course, my beloved Holy Island of Lindisfarne, have fulfilled this need, but there has been the longing to discover why people spoke so passionately about St. Beuno's and I have not been disappointed.

It is set in the rolling hills of North Wales, with views of the sea and Snowdonia and is a perfect environment for anyone seeking the presence of God in their lives and to deepen their walk of faith. From the moment of arrival at what I have to admit, on first appearances is a somewhat forbidding, grey building, the door opens to the warm smiles and words of welcome of the retreat leaders and I for one, become embraced by the stillness of a place that truly understands silence in every aspect of its work and prayer.

Each day involves a meeting with a Spiritual Director/prayer guide who listens carefully as the retreatant speaks about their prayer life, faith journey, their joys and sorrows. After a prayerful silence the director then offers appropriate suggestions for how to spend the day, be it with Scripture, poetry, art, music, walking or

simply resting. This is the only time for talking; the rest of the day is silent, yes, even mealtimes! What you, Joan, I can hear some of you exclaiming! Yes! Me! I love every precious moment of the silence, of the retreat from a noisy world and return renewed, restored and revitalised, so although I will be very sad to miss the celebrations on June 26th, my thoughts and prayers will be with you all and hopefully will return ready and energised for the next phase of the journey of us all as a family of God's people at Shotton.

CONCERT SEASON 2018-2019



MENDELSSOHN: ELIJAH
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL
Saturday 15th June, 2019

www.coventrycathedralchorus.com



That's not my Job!

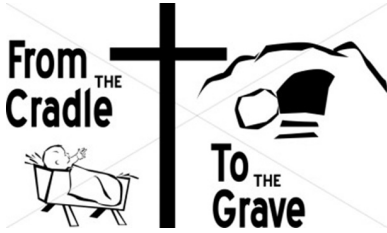
This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to do and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody would do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.



Wardens Watch - June 2019 with DAVID WHYMAN..

As some of you know, I am a very keen caravanner. Joan and I have enjoyed this form of holiday for some 50 years and find it so relaxing and a means by which we can re-charge the batteries. Caravanning today is so different from when we started, now with showers, flushing loo, full cooker and hob and a microwave as well – ours is even “posh” enough to have what is termed “mood lighting” – all very subdued and relaxing. Some of the larger motorhomes are even more amazing with the facility to push out the sides to make the vehicle wider when on site, giving even more accommodation. I mention this facility thinking of 26th June when David and I are thinking of various ways in which to accommodate Bishop Christopher together with his Chaplain, Sue our Archdeacon, the choir, friends and relatives of Craig and Su, various robed clergy, visitors from Craig’s previous parishes – and that is before we start on our own congregation! If only our Sanctuary had the facility of the motorhome and we could push the sides out!

As the time draws near, I can sense the anticipation and excitement growing within our church and that is wonderful. That has led me to ponder on the fact of what am I getting excited about ? What am I anticipating ? Is Craig going to be a miracle worker who on his own can turn us into the “perfect church” – whatever that may be ! I have lived long enough to realise that this cannot be the case, and indeed along with most of us, I wouldn’t want it to be so. Craig and Su I trust, will bring new, refreshing thoughts and ideas which will spark us into new directions and plans. He, under God’s guidance can be innovative, but it is for us to change from within and work with him collectively to spread the Good News of Jesus to our neighbourhood and beyond. Let’s give him a chance and from the very start of his ministry with us show Shottery and Bishopton that Jesus can change lives completely. All that starts with God and us as individuals. May we be filled with “passionate spirituality” in all that we do for our God and King. May God bless you each one.



Holy Baptism

12th May Jackson Brody Wrycroft

Funerals

26th April Joy Waters (86)

3rd May John Keys (88)

15th May Rosemary Quarterman (80)



"It is possible to do something in an instant that will give you
heartache for life."

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Ladies Fellowship met on Thursday, the 25th of April, David Millington, secretary of our PCC was our speaker. He came to tell us about the process which had to be gone through to appoint our new vicar who will be coming to us in June. David was such an interesting speaker; he took us through the whole process following James's departure.



It began with the visit of the Archdeacon of Coventry who set out the requirements for the job description; who should be involved in the production of this; how the interview would take place and who would be involved. There were so many tasks to be completed, rules and regulations to be followed. As well as this all this work, the management and the running our church during the interregnum had to be organised! Finally, when all the tasks were completed and approved by the Archdeacon, the advert for the new vicar was placed in The Church Times.

Interviews of three applicants took place and the panel's chosen candidate was submitted to the Bishop of Coventry and subsequently approved. David also told us about how the Induction Service for our new vicar will be carried out.

David gave us such an interesting insight into the whole appointment process and we are so grateful to him for spending the evening with us and for making the whole process, which seemed at first rather complex, so clear to us. We are all looking forward to the arrival of our new vicar the Reverend Craig Grocock. As usual after the meeting we shared a light supper together.

Jo Carver. Chairperson





David Langman writes of

The Miracle of the Early Christian Church.

This is the second topic that attracts me regarding what Christians should know.

Jesus was crucified around 30AD. By the end of the first century AD no one who knew him closely was still alive with perhaps the exception of John, the son of Zebedee, who was the only Apostle to die naturally.

The early phase of the Christian Church was inevitably closely linked to the Jewish Law and theology and membership demanded male circumcision. It was due to Paul's missionary genius beginning with the journey to Cyprus in 45AD and ending with his execution in 64AD that great changes in the Church to membership and influence in the area we call the Middle East and Asia Minor occurred. Membership for the Gentiles was to be incurred by faith alone together with the belief in the nature and teaching of Jesus.

Thus in only nineteen years Paul had established churches, a theological entity and the beginnings of an organisation. This last was in cooperation with Jesus' original disciples and followers and adherents beginning with the appointment of bishops. In Acts 11.30 and 15.22 we see a collegiate form of government in Jerusalem led by James the Just by tradition the first Bishop of Jerusalem.. In Acts 14.23 Paul ordains presbyters (another term for bishops) in churches in Anatolia.

The early followers of Jesus believed the end of the world was nigh and that there would be an early second coming (Parousia) of Jesus but as time passed this view changed so that by 60-100AD the early Gospels and by 100AD letters from Paul were ready to form the New Testament as the basis for belief and understanding.

The Romans treated the Jews as a nation and the Christians as a sect. Nero's persecution of the Christians was an attempt to blame the Christians in 64AD for the Great Fire of Rome whereby only four of the fourteen regions or sections which divided the city remained and there was a great loss of life. Refugees were accommodated in the Imperial gardens, temporary accommodation was erected and a plentiful supply of provisions made available. Such a conflagration had a cause, even if like that that of London in the seventh century it was accidental. Nero was the rumoured cause of the incendiary and it was at his insistence that the Christians were blamed leading to severe persecution.

The Roman treatment of the Jews led to three large scale revolts by the Jews, the first in 66-73AD which led to the destruction of the City and the Temple and the Bar Kokbba revolt (132-135AD) and the Kidos war (115-117AD). Throughout the Jews were themselves divided as between the Sadducees, the Pharisees and the Essenes and the rebellions were crushed with losses on all sides. The Roman campaign including Masada (73AD) defeated all the major Jewish strongholds. The Jews conducted other revolts by diasporic Jews in key areas which included Cyprus leading in turn to the barring of Jews from Jerusalem and Judaea and the loss of Jewish domination in the region which was only regained with the founding of modern Israel in 1948AD.

As far as the Romans were concerned the Christian sect was treated harshly particularly when individuals refused to accept the deification as a God the ruling Emperor. This persecution continued severe to the systemic state persecution in 250AD by the Emperor Decius. The number of martyrs is unreliable but variously put at between 5,500 and 6,500 during the three hundred years following Nero. We believe the Roman Empire population was about 19.8 million over this time and Rome itself was about one million. The same period showed a remarkable growth in Christian membership at times approaching 40 per cent per decade.

As the Church grew within the Roman Provinces a canon was agreed on books to form the New Testament in 140-200AD. Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch on his way to martyrdom urged the Church to be governed by Bishops and for the first time acknowledged the term "the Catholic Church".

The period 284-305 under Diocletian was the last great state persecution.

The great change came in 313AD when the Western Emperor Constantine the Great and the Eastern Emperor Licinius issued the Edict of Milan formally giving toleration to Christians and adopting Christianity as a state religion. By 324 AD Constantine won control of all the Roman Empire and in 325AD the Council of Nicea ensured the strength of the Church with a creed with an organisation beginning to develop around Rome.

One can clearly see the Christian Church as a miracle of evolution overcoming persecution from what was probably the greatest Empire ruling entity known to Europe and perhaps the world, eventually becoming in our times numerically the largest religion on earth.

We had a lovely sunny afternoon for our meeting on the 14th. Hilary Capron led the opening prayers and it was nice to have the piano accompani-

ment by David.

Hilary said that Audrey Edwards would be reporting on her proposed visit to Coffee Tots in Coventry and we are hoping to make this our charity for this year.

August 13th would be our summer outing - a train trip from Broadway to Winchcombe, where we would stop for tea before our return - further details in due course.

Hilary introduced Mary Boddington and Hilary Schmidt-Hansen. Hilary works locally in setting up Fairtrade stalls and her talk was about Tradecraft, the co-founder of the Fairtrade Foundation. which aims to give a proper return to people in developing countries for their produce and helps them to become more self sufficient - plenty of stories of communities being able to open schools and generally improve living conditions. This usually starts by individuals, often women, beginning a small business and expanding it with the help of Fairtrade.



The Fairtrade Foundation was launched 40 years ago and the first products marketed were tea, coffee, sugar and chocolate. Over the years, these were followed by the Geobar, wine, juice, cotton, rubber, charcoal and palm oil, this latter leading to the Fairtrade cleaning range. All these are produced on a relatively small scale and the difficulty is competing with the large supermarkets and getting them to sell Fairtrade products; this is why it is important to have sales outlets in churches, etc.

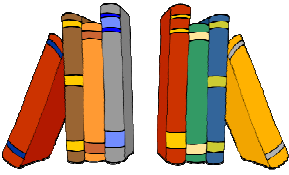
Unfortunately, at the last AGM, it was decided that the company would cease trading owing to exchange rates with the dollar, etc., and many of the staff were laid off. However, five members proposed a business plan which gives them two years to see if it can be profitable again.

Hilary was thanked for this informative talk and after several questions, members were able to buy from the wide range of goods on display.

NEXT MEETING - 11th June - The Puffing Parson - The Revd. Canon David Capron.

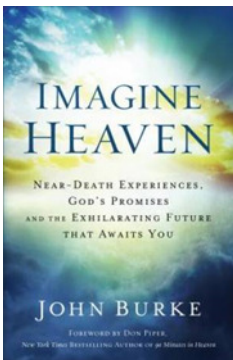
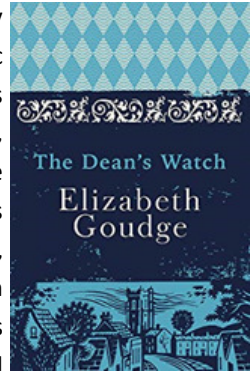
Please remember, there will also be a Bring and Buy Stall. Visitors always welcome.

Daphne Jones.



The Dean's Watch by Elizabeth Gould

I revisited this old favourite novel and realised that it has a very powerful Christian message of the transformative, redemptive power of love. Adam Ayscough, is the dean of a cathedral city. He is humble but very shy and deaf so is thought to be haughty and unfeeling. He strikes up an unlikely friendship with Isaac Peabody, a watchmaker. Through him he meets and helps several other city folk to find a better future. At Christmas, instead of his usual academic sermon, he preaches from the heart of love which touches many hearts. That night he dies leaving Isaac his treasured watch and his faith in God. Isaac, who is daunted by the cathedral, finally summons enough courage to go in and is entranced. Also central to the story is Miss Montague, who is now housebound. Unloved as a child she has devoted her life to listening, praying and loving others until she becomes loved herself. I hope others will come to love this author and her books as much as I do.



Imagine Heaven by John Burke

Recommended by Mary Boddington as worth reading. The author looks at and compares over 100 Near Death Experiences (NDE's) mainly from professionals and children, who would have nothing to gain from fabricating their accounts. He quotes from scripture to verify that they conform to Christian beliefs answering many of our questions on the way. The one thing that overall emerges is how much we are loved no matter our sins and faults. I always thought of myself as a sceptic or agnostic as far as eternal life is concerned now I can't wait to experience it for myself.

Janet Insoll

The Royal School of Church Music is an educational charity committed to promoting the study, practice and improvement of music in Christian worship. It is both ecumenical and international. It is an

open, lifelong learning organisation, offering face-to-face and distance education and training through its programmes, published resources, courses and activities.

The RSCM supports a world-wide membership of churches, schools and individuals, and is sustained by thousands of donors and volunteers worldwide. Founded by Sir Sydney Nicholson in 1927, the RSCM's original emphases were English and choral. Now, in a diverse international context, the RSCM's work is far broader and more varied, and we aim to make all our work ecumenical in purpose, nature and content. What does the RSCM do?

It supports members through

- practical and applied programmes of education and training
- music-making at festivals and courses
- music and training resources
- information, advice and guidance

It serves the wider church by

- encouraging music-making in general, and singing in particular
- providing training in essential skills for church music
- developing understanding of music in the church's ministry and worship
- encouraging good music everywhere through fostering outreach from the church-
es into the community
- engaging with young people in singing



How does the RSCM deliver its work?

Internationally, through its core programmes:

- Voice for Life, a comprehensive training programme for choral singers of all ages and abilities
- Church Music Skills, a range of practical training schemes and awards in essential skills centrally, through:
 - the magazine, Church Music Quarterly
 - the quarterly guide to choosing music for worship, Sunday by Sunday
 - the RSCM Press, publishing music and training resources
 - the website
- the national youth choir – the RSCM Millennium Youth Choir – which our junior choir member Lily belongs to
- the training choirs – RSCM Voices and Cathedral Singers
- the courses for singers, organists, instrumentalists and worship leaders
- Regionally, through the work of volunteers, who organize events and training including:
 - festivals
 - local courses, summer schools, workshops and training days
 - singing award schemes
 - In partnership with others:
 - consulting with the churches nationally and locally
 - collaborating with other church, music, and educational organizations



For Music Sunday 2019, (16th June) the RSCM has commissioned a new anthem by acclaimed composer, **Joanna Forbes-L'Estrange**. **God the Holy Trinity** is a beautiful, fresh setting of the Blessing for Trinity Sunday – the date for this year's Music Sunday celebration. Please give

generously to enable the rich choral heritage we have enjoyed at St. Andrew's to continue for many years to come.

THIS IS OUR JUNE CHARITY (16th). Please show your appreciation of our wonderful musicians and give generously.



The Shakespeare Hospice Sponsored Toddle taking place at **Compton Verney Art Gallery and Park** on Thursday 13 June is a new Shakespeare Hospice event for families, childminders and nurseries. Children can complete a short distance of 700 metres and all are welcome, whether they are in a pushchair, wheelchair, crawling, waddling or walking.

Registration is free for children participating with an agreed sponsorship of £20 and adults are £5 each. For each adult and child that participate, the Hospice would receive a £25 donation that would pay for a bereaved young person to receive a one hour one-to-one support session.

As well as supporting vital Hospice services, participants will have the luxury of being able to spend the day exploring the award-winning art gallery and stunning parkland for free!

Registration for the event, which has a limited number of places, is still open. To sign up or for more information, visit

www.theshakespearehospice.org.uk/events



With Pentecost in mind

To be filled with the Spirit is to have the Spirit fulfilling in us all that God intended him to do when he placed him there.

- Lewis S Chafer

Malvern Spring Show – May 2019

In November 2018 the story began. I asked Barbara Wood if she would like to do a 2 persons arrangement in a Class at the Floral Art Competition, Malvern.

Well knock me over with a feather, Barbara agreed, then promptly said, “what have I done, I said I would never do Floral competitions”.

Well too late, the application was in and for the next 5 months we planned the arrangement, sorted out the required materials, got the mechanics completed by the week of the Show.

Then all we had to do was prepare all the live material, foliage and flowers. We did that the day before we had to set up at Malvern. That took ten hours and that was after raiding numerous gardens the previous day.

On the Wednesday we set off for Malvern with everything neatly boxed up, arriving at 10 am. “We’ll be home by 5 pm” I said with confidence Well 13 hours after we started, we finally completed the arrangement for judging the following day at 6.30 am.

Back the following day to see what the judges had awarded for our “View from a Penthouse window” we were awarded a commended placing.

We were thrilled as neither of us had done such a big show before, so it was for us both a new experience,

Did we enjoy it? Yes, we did.

Will we do it again? Yes, we will, in fact the application for the Malvern Autumn show has already gone in.

I hope those that had a chance to see the arrangement whilst we had it in church after the show enjoyed it.

Barbara Wood and Nic Carree



'Tis the planting season...

Plant three rows of peas

Peace of mind - Romans 14:5

Peace of heart - Acts 15:9

Peace of soul - 1 Peter 1:22

Plant four rows of squash

Squash gossip - Lev 19:16

Squash selfishness - Luke 18:11-14

Squash grumbling - John 6:43, James 5:9

Squash indifference - Mark 14:32 - 41

Plant five rows of lettuce

Lettuce be kind - 1 Peter 2:1-3

Lettuce be faithful - Dan 3:16-18

Lettuce be obedient - 1 John 3:22

Lettuce love one another - John 3:16

Lettuce financially support our church -
Mal 3:6-12

No garden can be without turnips

Turnip for service - Acts 3:1

Turnip for meetings - Heb 10:25

Turnip to help one another - Rom 12:13

We must have Thyme

Thyme for God - Psalm 3:1-8

Thyme for prayer - Psalm 54:4

Thyme for each other - John 15:12-14

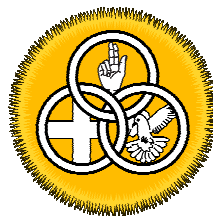
Thyme for Bible study - Ezra 7-10

"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."
— *John Wesley*

With Trinity Sunday in mind

Thousands of the ablest minds of the centuries have pondered this problem and no one has been able to explain it; who then invented it? What man can invent, man can explain: what man cannot explain, man cannot have invented. It must be a revelation.
- *G H Lang.*

If asked to define the Trinity, we can only say that it is not this or that. -
Augustine



BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

The 5 Minute Meditation

In his Sermon on the Mount our Lord said, 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be satisfied' (Matt. 5:6). These words that link hunger and thirst with blessedness sound strange in our ears. Every night around the world millions of people go to bed hungry and wake up to another day of not knowing where the next meal is coming from. Blessed? Hardly!

It is shocking and obscene when we are told the grim facts about world poverty and then told that the average family in Britain wastes £400 of good food every year. But of course our Lord was not talking about physical hunger and thirst on this occasion, although the world's hunger grieves him deeply and he expects that we and all his people will do all we can to relieve it.

Rather he was talking about spiritual hunger and spiritual thirst. We are truly blessed when we long for righteousness. 'Righteousness' is one of the very important words in the Bible. It describes what God is; God is righteous, meaning he is holy, just and absolutely dependable. We are blessed when we long to be like God - when we hunger and thirst to reflect his character in our lives.

When we look into the Scriptures we see that this longing for God and his likeness is the mark of the saints in every age. It is very prominent in the books of Psalms. Here is Psalm 42. 'As a hart longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for you, O God. My souls thirsts for God, for the living God' (vv.1,2). The same longing is expressed in Psalm 63. 'O God, you are my God, I seek you. My soul thirsts for you as in a dry and weary land where no water is' (v.1).

When the Psalmist is confronted with the enigmas of life, especially when the wicked seems to triumph, of one thing he is sure. 'Whom have I in heaven but you? There is nothing upon earth that I desire beside you' (Ps. 73:25). One of the most familiar and most moving expressions of a pilgrim seeking after God is found in Psalm 84. 'My soul longs, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God' (vv.1,2).

This longing for God is not confined to the Old Testament. In Philippians 3 Paul gives us a long autobiographical passage. He tells us what he used to be, what happened to him through meeting with 'Christ Jesus my Lord' - and now what the great all-absorbing ambition of his life is. 'That I may know him and the power of his resurrection' (v.10).

Down through the centuries of the Church it has been the same; the mark of God's people is their longing to know him and be in closer communion with him. This longing fills the pages of the biographies and autobiographies of God's servants; from Augustine to Thomas Aquinas, to Martin Luther, to John Wesley, to Elizabeth Fry, to Mother Teresa. But of course this longing for God is not the prerogative of

well known Christians in the history of the Church; it is the hallmark of all God's people whether expressed publicly or only secretly in prayer. And to all of them, and to us, our Lord gives the most wonderful assurance. When we hunger and thirst to be like him, we will be satisfied!


Climate Change

Climate Action Day - 22 June

Stratford Climate Action Day takes place on 22 June 2019 and is run by Stratford Climate Action Forum at Stratford Methodist Church Centre, with a lecture (Dr Lisa Schipper: *'Climate Change - why we can still do something'*), with workshops and exhibitions.

For further information, contact Dr Lim Ho using the link below. If you are a member of an Eco Church in the area, it would be good to get to this, both for the event itself and to see the great ways in which Stratford Methodist Church has worked to get its Silver Award.

Email: limho21@hotmail.com



Bad thoughts are like germs. Build up your immunity!

By tradition the first meeting of the new PCC meet together for worship, supper , fellowship and a little business with a speaker or special agenda item. This year **Sarah Cushing** had been invited to tell us about her spiritual journey. She was so inspiring, humbling and emotional as she shared this with us. You could have heard a pin drop! We were (and are) so proud of her and are fully supportive of her future in ordained ministry. I have asked her to share some of this journey with us here.



Called by God – My Journey

“The One who calls you by name is faithful and he will do it” (1 Thessalonians)

Greetings everyone, I have been asked to share with you a few snippets about “My Journey” and God’s calling in my life. As some of you are aware, in March this year I attended a Bishops Advisory Panel at Ely in Cambridge, where it was recommended I train for Ordination. You’ve heard of the saying *“you could have knocked me down with a feather”* well that’s how I felt when I received the news. I couldn’t believe that someone such as me had been called in this way. Everything that has happened is by the grace and mercy of the Holy Spirit. I have walked an amazing journey of learning and transformation with the help of God and finally called to trust, obey and respond...

The words from Thessalonians above are a good way to express how the journey has been for me. The Lord certainly is faithful and He did it. It wasn’t me. I was very slow to respond to God’s call but this has been discerned properly by a Diocesan panel and a Bishops Panel. God is gracious.

It’s hard to know where I should begin with my story. Sometimes words are not adequate enough to describe the change that God has made in my life and leading me to this incredibly humbling, privileged and special time. My calling was not a great Damascus Road moment, it was very much like a slow dawning, an awakening gently over time. As I have reflected back it seems to me that this calling may have been embedded in me since I was a child.

I had wonderful parents and siblings. I grew up attending church and Sunday school and I was nurtured through the glorious simplicity of worship, scripture and simple

artwork around the Bible. One Christmas at the age of 8, when other young friends around me were hoping for pets, board games or bikes etc, I yearned and prayed for a Children's Bible and a hymn book. I received the Children's bible and spent most of my Christmas Day glued to it, and observing its stories and wonderful artwork. To this day I still cherish this Bible. I remember later visiting my Godmother in Broadwell in the Cotswolds, and with my lifetime love of all music and words of hymns, I went into the church with my parents and met the vicar. I naughtily hounded the vicar by saying just how much it would mean to me to have a hymn book of my own. He dedicated a hymn book to me which again I still have to this day. These two things, I believe, had begun to plant a seed that would grow into something more.

Life, as with anyone, had its ups and downs - my partner died and as a single parent I raised my son James and saw him through primary and grammar school and onto University in great financial hardship (my son has gone on to own his own business. He is so loving and supportive of me too and I am most proud of him). In a short space of time I suffered quite a few family bereavements and an illness that I very nearly didn't recover from. At school I achieved grades, but I never considered myself clever enough academically. I often felt quite unworthy a lot of the time amongst those who seemed so wise and great in the world. Thereafter I remained nervous of any type of study. But God had other ideas – he changed me and things have taken place which have left me amazed.

My calling took hold through what I can only describe as 'nudges'. Those 'nudges' strongly appeared time and again and kept building and building. They would not go away even if I tried to dismiss them. They were to become a lesson from our Lord about Obedience and trust. I came to realise the importance of the word "Being" – being a child of God, being a fully committed servant of God, Being for others through word, prayer and deed in any way possible. The nudges began in 2002 when the words *Teach me thy way O Lord and I will walk in thy truth* (from Psalm 86), seemed to strongly prompt me to revisit scripture more fully and go deeper it and absorb it.

In 2012 at St Andrews, we had a visiting Incumbent who spoke about the new BCD (Bishops Certificate in Discipleship) courses in the Diocese and a Vocations leaflet. I received the most overwhelming feeling that I cannot describe, to do something, to find out more about what these Bishops Discipleship modules might offer, I took

both leaflets home but coming from a basic educational background and being scared, I shied away from it. I lacked confidence greatly even though I really desired to learn about theology. For the next few weeks, the BCD course would not go away it kept returning to me time and again, and others would ask me if I'd thought about trying the course – I was clearly given and heard the words “Ten Commandments – Moses”. I felt led to re-visit the Ten Commandments and reflect on the journey of Moses. This was the lesson I needed about Obedience, openness and trust. While pottering around at home - on a random television channel I hadn't purposefully selected or searched for, up popped a programme on Moses and the Ten Commandments and I stopped in my tracks. Other times I have also been nudged to reflect on the story of the teaching of the Samaritan Woman who meets Christ by Jacobs well. I found myself being drawn there to meet with Christ and reflect and to think about His living water.

I honestly felt God was sending signposts to respond and take up the BCD Course. I took the leap of faith and signed up. I prayed about my lack of confidence and my concerns about study and assignments and waited on Him in trust. Amazingly, I completed that module and all the other Diocesan courses that followed on, and I went on to read all sorts of books I might not have otherwise come across. I walked the path I least expected – Study – through which I have met many different people and shared many experiences.

Now, I cannot get enough of Theology or the study of it and getting into the nitty gritty elements of scripture and learning about all kinds of spiritual people and writers and theologians. I have been so enriched and am so thankful to God.

In 2015 I was privileged to be licensed as a Reader and I cannot begin to tell you how humbling that moment was. I could not believe this could happen to me. Over a period of time, members from our church have asked me if I had not considered a further calling to ordained ministry. I didn't feel worthy even to be a Reader never mind considering a further step. So I continued on and went on to do a short study course at Queens Ecumenical College in Edgbaston on Black Theology in Mission and Ministry. Over a year ago I signed up to study a CSTM course in Theology in Mission and Ministry at Ripon College in Cuddesdon, Oxford. I still find it amazing that I have managed to come this far. And so, over time once more the nudges re-appeared, and I spoke to James Warren and I attended another DDO Panel and BAP for my calling again to be discerned and as mentioned it was a 'yes' to train for Ordination.

I believe that God has shown to me that through a deep rooted faith, with hope, commitment and trust anything at all is possible through Him. I have learnt a lot about myself too in all of this – that in times of weakness he can put it to good use and give you inner strength. Also that with God we never stop learning and developing.

All I have ever prayed is that I may follow our Lord and His teaching from the Gospels and other elements of scripture with all of my heart and that he guides me day to day me through His will to serve and love others each and with humility and kindness.

I still cannot believe the change God brought to my life. This calling, which has been discerned, I truly consider to be a most privileged gift. It is imperative to realise it is not a status, it is not an occupation, it is God's calling - a real gift that must never be misused and one which requires obedience, love and trust, whilst always remaining humble. It is not something to be taken lightly at all. The journey has been tough along the way, and there is still much to do to prepare for the training ahead. I know I have been held strongly and I am indeed very humble about the fact that this is a calling of servanthood in the mantle of Christ. The source of all this goodness comes in recognising how important the receiving of the Eucharist is together with a disciplined prayer life. A constant reminder of all Jesus gave for us, and all that we in our own individual ways of being called with all our different individual spiritual gifts, can turn to serve him and each other in great faith. I thank God wholeheartedly and will endeavour to give back through the years ahead. To follow wherever he leads.

To all of you at St Andrews – I thank you from the bottom of my heart, for your love, your kindness, your support and encouragement.

Being Called

Go at the Call of God,
the call to follow on, to leave security behind
and go where Christ has gone.
Go in the name of God, the name of Christ you bear;
take up the cross, it's victim's love with all the world to share.

Go in the love of God, explore its depth and height.
Held fast by love that cares, that heals, in love walk in the light.
Go in the strength of God, in weakness prove God true.
The strength that dares to love and serve,
God will pour out in you.

Go with the Saints of God, our common life upbuild,
that daily, as we walk God's way, we may with love be filled.

O God, to you we come, your love alone to know,
Your name to own, your strength to prove,
and at Your call to go.

May we all encourage others to go forth at the call of God and in the love of God to prove Him true.

Sarah Cushing.



Miscellaneous observations on life in general

Minor operation: one performed on someone else.

Monday morning: when we look back wistfully on the good old days - Saturday and Sunday.

Man is an animal that makes bargains; no other animal does this - one dog does not change a bone with another. *Adam Smith*

Denise Bradwell and her family (husband Simon, daughters Claire and Lauren) completed a Bridges of London walk on Sunday May 12th 2019.

Around 340 people of all ages took part to create a sea of purple (representing the periwinkle, which is Lymphoma Action's emblem). The walk started at Vauxhall bridge and crossed the river Thames 10 times, to finish at Tower bridge. It incorporated spectacular views of historic and iconic landmarks of the capital city, in the May sunshine



While a walk of just over 8 miles (13.9km) may not seem momentous for most people, for Denise it was a challenge and an achievement.

Denise herself has been treated with radiotherapy multiple times and chemotherapy treatments over a number of years which has not been easy but has received excellent support from many sources including family, friends, her faith and the NHS.

Lymphoma Action is the UK's only charity dedicated to lymphoma, the 5th most common cancer.

Denise is a volunteer support group organizer with Lymphoma Action and currently hold meetings in Stratford upon Avon, every month.

Please see website for further details-
<https://lymphoma-action.org.uk/>

Denise and her family would like to express their gratitude and sincere thanks for all of the sponsorship support they have received from friends at St Andrews, Shotton.

Once again, thank you so much for your contribution, in total we have raised in excess of £900.



<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TheBradwellfamilySoA>

The Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Mass

Go along and help to spread the word about this Great Thanksgiving, taking place in the context of the Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Festival on Wednesday 19 June at 7:30pm in the Guild Chapel, Chapel Lane, Stratford-upon-Avon. The service is built around a Eucharistic prayer, but includes poems as prayerful intentions as well.

There's been a Poetry Mass in the Festival since 2005 and this year it seeks to involve appropriate participation from the three Abrahamic faiths through specially selected readings (poetry and scripture).

Every morning is the dawn of a
new error.

" An autobiography without
punctuation is a life sentence."

Everything I Learned From A Cow

Everything I need to know I learnt from a cow

1. Wake up in a happy moooo-d.
2. Don't cry over spilled milk.
3. When chewing your cud, remember: There's no fat, no calories, no cholesterol, and no taste!
4. The grass is green on the other side of the fence.
5. Turn the udder cheek and moooo-ve on.
6. Seize every opportunity and milk it for all its worth!
7. It's better to be seen and not herd.
8. Honour thy fodder and thy mother and all your udder relatives.
9. Never take any bull from anybody.
10. Always let them know who's the bossy.
11. Stepping on cowpies brings good luck.
12. Black and white is always an appropriate fashion statement.
13. Don't forget to cow-nt your blessings every day.



The Lord doesn't waste anything!

As we both weren't driving any more, Pam Smith and I started to meet up at Alcester Methodist Church on a Tuesday morning for a coffee. Pam had suffered a stroke and I'd had a back operation.

One Tuesday morning a member of the congregation asked us if we had any ideas on how to make the building look a bit more "churchey". Well a few months before our set-backs,

Pam and I had started to design a Church wall-hanging based on "Jesus calms the storm".

Before we knew it we had said yes we did have some ideas, and found ourselves working with the Tuesday morning crowd, using fabric and thread to make fish. The theme was "Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men".

Pam had skills in making beautiful patchwork and I had studied collage and embroidery as part of my teacher training. Pam has a big dining table, so after about seven months (the table was needed over Christmas) of getting together at her house, we completed the fabric collage wall-hanging. The endeavour has helped us regain confidence in our skills even though Pam is still wobbly and my hands haven't yet got their full feeling back.

Now I know why I was keeping all those bits of fabric in boxes under my bed!

Denise Andreo



Shakespeare's Schoolroom & Guildhall: Midsummer Bash!

Tuesday 11th June 2019 7.00pm to 10.00pm

Shakespeare's Schoolroom & Guildhall is hosting an evening to celebrate all things local in one of Stratford's oldest buildings. Enjoy delicious canapes from Naylor Fine Foods with a complimentary glass of wine during the evening.

Award-winning local businesses Shakespeare's Distillery, Vin Neuf, The Little Soap Company, and Willow & Honey join Gemini Woman and Diva Brows and Beauty who will show the latest looks for summer with a Fashion Show.

We also welcome Newson Health Menopause and Wellbeing Centre the new centre, totally dedicated to women's health in Stratford.

Tickets: £15.00 All proceeds from the evening will go to **the Shakespeare Hospice**.

For further information please contact Sarah Jarvis-Hill
at

sjervis-hill@shakespearesschoolroom.org

or on 01789 203172.



Sheriff Vet

The sheriff of a small town was also the town's veterinarian.

One night the phone rang, and his wife answered. An agitated voice enquired, "Is your husband there?"

"Do you require his services as a sheriff or as a vet?" the wife asked.

"Both!" was the reply. "We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar in it."



NOT A HOLLYWOOD MOVIE by Alan Minchin

I'm beginning to feel like a background actor in one of those disaster movies much beloved, at one time, by the film makers of Hollywood.

You may remember the scenarios. Planet Earth threatened by some cataclysmic disaster and, as the film moved to its expected climax there arrived on the scene, heroes, probably accompanied by a heroines, who saved the day much to the relief of the cinema audience.

I still remember the film that impacted me greatly at the time. It was called "On the Beach" and told the story of an American submarine crew following a nuclear war. It was based on a book of the same name authored by Nevil Shute and, unlike most disaster movies, did not have a happy ending. For a number of days after seeing it I awoke from nightmares in the middle of the night. You will have to be, though, of a certain age to remember it !

But nightmares are starting to become a reality in our present time. Last April's demonstrations in London by Extinction Rebellion (EX) highlighted how close our planet is coming to the situation of being unable to support the life that it has here-to supported.

We are now more aware than ever of the "chain of life", how each stage of life relies on other stages of life in order to healthily exist and prosper. But now various stages of life are being badly threatened as the environment of planet Earth becomes more damaged by pollution and climate change, and the "tipping point" of no-return, we are informed, is rapidly approaching.

During the EX demonstrations a young Swedish teenager made an impassioned plea in which she questioned whether her generation will have a sustainable future, and certainly doubted any future for her generation's children. Which should make us ask - "are the nightmares becoming reality?"

Climate change is happening because of our human evolution, and much pollution occurs as a result of so many people's selfish attitudes, indifference and carelessness - just look at our roadside verges, open spaces and beaches for the proof of this. And the knowledge of the terrible effect upon our oceans, and the creatures therein, is only just emerging.

The answer to pollution is probably an easier one than is the answer to the results of our evolution. Though many actions are now being implemented, such as

renewable energy sources and the eventual phasing out of the internal combustion engine, there are those who say this is all far too late and the future of planet Earth is irreparably damaged.

As Christians how should we be understanding today's situation ? Firstly, we should remember that life, including humanity, is here not as a result of some mindless and random combination of "natural" forces. There is reason and intelligence behind this vast and seemingly hostile Universe and planet Earth is an oasis that is specifically "tweaked" to enable life to occur and be supported.

These highly precise, fine-tuned and interdependent conditions have been called, by scientists, the Anthropic Principle and can be summarized in the opening words of The Bible - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth".

It is clear that humankind has been entrusted by God to be stewards of planet Earth and, I would speculate, based on our success or otherwise might we be judged as to our fitness to be entrusted with eternal realms ? Our fitness for eternity may be seen in what we have become as a result of how we have lived our earthly lives - how we have responded to the will and commandments of Almighty God.

The Bible's teaching is quite clear that there will be a time of "the end of the age" when God will bring to an end the "stewardship" of our human race and will usher in "The Kingdom of God".

In the meantime it is good that we should all remember that this is not "our" planet and that we all are merely sojourners here undergoing a journey. This is God's creation and I doubt if all will come to an end outside of His divine will.

Perhaps one way The Church may give a lead at this time is to robustly proclaim the biblical teaching that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10 NIV) or as The Living Bible translation has it *"For the reverence and fear of God are basic to all wisdom. Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding"*.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" and we can rest assured it will be God's purposes that are finally fulfilled.

"Jesus is the bread of life, not the cake for special occasions."

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