



Friday Fellowship News No 30, 13 November 2020

ZOOM - APCM SUNDAY – 3PM

LOOKING forward to our Annual Parochial Church Meeting via Zoom on **Sunday** (15 Nov) at 3pm.

You have been emailed a Link to enable you to join us – **but a copy of the Notice is attached to this FFN**. Do try to join just before 3pm so that we can start on time, ensuring that your **audio is on**.

It will be helpful if you **MUTE yourself** so that background noise is eliminated, as with so many on the zoom, it could get very noisy and confusing.

I will do my best when asking if there are any questions to scan the screen, If you wish to ask a question, or make a point, **do WAVE clearly**, then once I've said your name, please **UNMUTE yourself** for your contribution. Given the nature of Zoom, brief, to the point questions would be most helpful. I will try, from the chair, to avoid 'Holy Chaos' – but can't guarantee it!

Thanks to Janet Warren for doing all the arrangements behind the scenes and to Libby, my secretary, for sending out the necessary paperwork.

MESSY CHURCH & FAMILY'S PASTORAL CONTACT

LOCKDOWN has had a big impact on the family ministry of church - with St Denys Kids running in the village hall during the 10.15am service on a Sunday for just a few weeks in September and October before the most recent lockdown, and with our last Messy Church gathering being back in the Spring.

So, it was brilliant to see 12 families catching up over zoom last Sunday afternoon. Being Remembrance Sunday, we spent some time reflecting on its meaning for us. Karin Williams-Cuss shared the very personal story of her Grandfather, William Williams, and his involvement in Operation Deadstick, and their capture of Pegasus Bridge as part of the D-Day landings. His name can be found on the memorial in church.

Through the wonders of technology, we were also able to watch a couple of videos, one about Pegasus Bridge itself, the other about Ranville Cemetery, just outside Caen, where William is buried.

Yvette also shared a reflection on John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friend. Remembering the greatest sacrifice of all time, Jesus laying down his life on the cross So that we can have life.

The session was greatly appreciated by the families that attended. We are intending to meet again over zoom on December 13, 4pm, with our theme this time being the Nativity story.

- If you have primary age school children and you haven't yet signed up to be part of the group - then please do get in touch directly with Yvette.

ADVENT 2020 – RECOMMENDED BOOK



ADVENT this year starts on November 29, so not far away!

So often, Advent books are eagerly awaited but I end up quite disappointed. But not this time.

Written by the wife of someone I trained with at vicar school, Liz Carter has given the Church a real gift this Advent amid the darkness, anxiety and hopelessness so many feel with Covid-19 affecting people across the globe.

As Liz says, **Advent Treasure** is a little book for all who are weary, but each day in Advent, want a bite-size reflection to restore hope, comfort and inspiration. Costing only £3.99 it is a great investment so go on, allow Liz's gift of communication help point us all to the author and the sustainer of life and hope this Christmas. Oh, and whilst you at it, why not buy another and give it away - even anonymously to a neighbour!

THE PRESENCE

St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place,
Edinburgh. Captain AE Borthwick (1910)



This picture is painted in St Mary's Cathedral. It shows a gathering of people standing at the communion rail receiving bread and wine, the "body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ".

The light denotes the presence of God at this most intimate time. In the foreground is a figure – a woman (though it could be a man) who has fallen on her knees at the nearest pillar to the door, and holds her head in her hands. "The Presence" is the figure of Jesus behind her – a hand out to touch, heal or forgive, and the other out to bless.

SPEND SOME TIME TO LOOK AND REFLECT ON THIS PICTURE. SEE THE DYNAMIC OF THE SERVICE – the CLOSENESS of GOD.

There are people together. They may know each other – or not – but they are together. God is there – the LIGHT.

There is a gap in the group – so others can come in.

This is so important – we welcome others who are seeking to come in.

We accept them because they are seeking – and for no other reason.

God is transforming us all.....

So pause and sense God's presence here, too, in this place.....

THEN LOOK TO THE FOREGROUND; TO THE FIGURE KNEELING JUST INSIDE THE DOOR... WHY IS SHE THERE?

Is she feeling too ashamed to join the others? Does she not know what to do, or say? Has she tried to join them but not been allowed in, or made to feel excluded.....?

There are many reasons to wonder.

But she IS there, seeking, imploring, yearning...just there.

AND THE PRESENCE OF JESUS IS NEAR- THE SAME LIGHT AS IN THE DISTANCE – THAT SAME PRESENCE IS ALL LOVING, ACCEPTING FORGIVING AND HEALING....

A fellow vicar once said to me "I have been that person....". So have I. Have YOU been there too – are you now?

CONGRATULATIONS – IAN MEAD



HUGE congratulations to Ian Mead, joint Manager at The Grange, recognised in the Oxfordshire Carers Awards 2020 for decades of service to residents. So incredibly well deserved.

SUNDAY REFLECTIONS & READINGS

Psalm 90:1-12, 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 and Matthew 25: 14-30. Revd Nigel Knights-Johnston is uploading a reflection which will be on our St Denys Facebook Page and on our YouTube channel in time for Sunday.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Revd Paul Eddy, Vicar

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