

# **CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT, No 43**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

**‘Virtually Church but with some way to go...’**

## **Welcome**

Welcome to this Sunday’s edition. For this and future Sunday editions we will be including as our reflection a condensed (or possibly full) version of the sermon which one of our officiants will be preaching at a ‘live’ service. We begin with Ron’s reflection on the well-known passage of the feeding of the five thousand.

## **Scripture Passage**

*Matthew 14: 13-21*

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”

They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.”

And he said, "Bring them here to me."

Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

### **Reflection**

This is for everyone who can't get to the service at St Michael's this morning. They're getting fourteen hundred words - you'll have to settle for half that. Sorry.

The best guitarist in the world ever is Roger McGuinn, and he used to be with the Byrds, (the best band in the world, ever) and now he plays solo gigs, and Pam and I have been to a few. And I've stopped being amazed by the sounds he gets out of his Rickenbacker guitar. Because now I realise that that's what he does. He is a guitarist, and has been since high school. So yes, he can make a twelve-string guitar sound like church bells, because that's what he does.

So if I tried to feed five thousand people with five pitta bread and two little fish, the most anybody would get would be about one molecule, and that's if they were sitting at the front.

Jesus did it, and everybody had more than enough, and every one of his disciples filled his backpack with the leftovers, or that hill would have looked like Glastonbury on the Monday after.

And we say, *that's a miracle*. But I say, no it isn't, because this is just what Jesus does. Because Jesus is God. *I and the Father are one*, he said. *If you've seen me*, he said, *you've seen the Father*. And what does God the Father do? He creates. Ducks, anteaters and turtles, leafy sea-dragons and salamanders, dogs and ants and hairy caterpillars, pink viruses with knobs on, and in this particular case, *fish*. Give Jesus two fish, and the whole business of fish-making goes into action. And bread? It's grain, and water, and maybe yeast, and God has been in the grain and yeast business since the earth first cooled down.

What this story tells us is that Jesus is God giving us a wave and saying *this is me!* We can't understand what God is like in the cosmic sense. He's just too much for our little brains to handle. So he became one of us, so we can see what he's like in human terms - ways we can understand. And that's Jesus.

This is the only one of Jesus' miracles that is in all four Gospels. Jesus' recorded miracles are mostly healing - putting right conditions like blindness, lameness, leprosy - debilitating illnesses that have no place in his kingdom. And the occasions when he drove out evil spirits we would see today as healing mental conditions, or illnesses like epilepsy that people then just didn't understand.

There are miracles of transforming - water becomes wine, and if you like, bad people become good, like Zaccheus the tax collector.

And here we have a miracle of creating, a sign, to those who will understand it, of Jesus' identity with God the Father, the Creator.

Why did he do it? Well, because he could, and because he felt sorry for the hungry people who wanted to see him so much, were so keen to hear his teaching that they left home without thought to even take a sandwich with them.

Later, John the Baptist in prison would send to Jesus to ask, *Are you the one we're expecting, or should we wait for another?* And Jesus sent the message back, *Tell John what you've seen- the blind get their sight, the deaf hear, and **the hungry are fed.*** Hunger has no place in God's kingdom. It isn't his will that anyone should starve. There are hungry people in the world today, and a lot of them seem very hard to help - the people of Yemen, for example. But there are plenty of people we can help, and that's where the Lord's Larder comes in - supplying the food banks that for some reason 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain still needs. I don't get into the politics of why, but there is a little thing we can all do. I know it's a big leap down from the cosmic creation to the canned food in a box in the church, but it's a way of coming alongside Jesus, who reminded us that whatever we do for the least of his people, we do for him.

*Ron*

### **Hymn Suggestion**

The hymns at North Cadbury this morning are 'All people that on earth do dwell' and 'Great is thy faithfulness'.

### **Points for Prayers**

- For our spiritual growth and discipleship as we respond to the good news of Jesus Christ
- Thanksgiving for our initial service in the Group following the easing of lockdown and prayers for the other ones planned in August
- Thanksgiving for care, skill and courage of NHS workers and those in care homes
- Those suffering from coronavirus in hospitals, care homes and at home

- Need for further largescale testing and research into and development of a vaccine as soon as this can be achieved
- For small weddings taking place in the benefice on 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August
- Prayers for those affected economically by the lockdown, for businesses and those who have become unemployed
- Prayers and thanksgiving for contributions to the foodbanks and for those helping to take these to the foodbanks.

### **Services of public worship in August**

I can now set out the following schedule of services of public worship planned for August. This does not include all of the monthly services across the Group held pre-lockdown. So if a service in the Group which you regularly attended is not included in the schedule you are of course most welcome to attend any other service within the Group. However, because of the limitations on capacity in the various churches through the need for social distancing it would be appreciated if you could in these circumstances let the relevant churchwarden know in advance of your intention to do this.

Any additions to this schedule will be notified as and when they arise.

#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

11.00 am, Group Communion, St Michael's North Cadbury

#### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August

9.30 am, Communion, Galhampton

9.30 am, Communion, St John the Baptist North Cheriton

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August

9.30 am, Communion, St Mary's Compton Pauncefoot

11.00 am, Sunday Worship, St Michael's North Cadbury

11.00 am, Communion, St Peter and St Paul, Maperton

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

9.30 am, Communion, St Thomas a Becket, South Cadbury

11.00 am, Communion, St Michael's North Cadbury

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August

6.30 pm, Evensong, Galhampton

**Reopening churches for private prayer**

The commencement of a number of services across the Group means that the arrangements for private prayer will now change. The arrangements for August (so far as they are known) are as follows:-

Sunday morning openings

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

North Cheriton open from 9.30 am to 10.30 am

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August

South Cadbury open from 10.00 am to 11.30 am

Compton Pauncefoot open from 9.30 am to 10.30 am.

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August

North Cheriton open from 9.30 am to 10.30 am

Compton Pauncefoot open from 9.30 am to 10.30 am.

### Midweek openings

#### Wednesday afternoons, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

North Cadbury, open from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm (please note there is no opening on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August because of a wedding on that day)

### Galhampton

Midweek opening times for Galhampton are under review

## **Excalibur and the Parish Office**

Because of concerns relating to the hand delivery of parish magazines and also the relative lack of available content an electronic rather than a printed version of Excalibur will be produced during the period of the restrictions. This will be available on the website, [www.camelotparishes.co.uk](http://www.camelotparishes.co.uk), and will include Camelot People giving details of occasional offices in the benefice (this for the moment is confined to funerals during the suspension of both weddings and baptisms). The August Excalibur is now online and can be downloaded from the homepage of the website.

The Parish Office is closed as Rob is on holiday for the next two weeks.

## **Church of England Daily Hopeline**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a new telephone service, 'Daily Hopeline'. If you ring the free number 0800 804 8044 you can hear a

recorded message and can also listen to well-known hymns along with prayers and a reflection based on a hymn.

*Growing as a worshipper, a servant and a family*

*We pray that 'we might live in love,  
as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us'*

(Ephesians 5:2)