

# **CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT, No 56**

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

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

## **Welcome**

Welcome to this midweek edition of Cutting Edge Camelot.

Our curate Anna was ordained as priest at St Cuthbert’s Wells yesterday evening. Because of the current restrictions the service had to be a very small one. However, the service was recorded and we understand should soon be available on the Diocese of Bath and Wells Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/bathandwells/>) and on the Diocese of Bath and Wells youtube channel

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfoG5SQ7Zs9UJQmQ2M8cUsQ>).

Please do check out these links if you would like to.

## **Scripture Passage**

*James 3:1-12*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies.

Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell.

For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue -- a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

## **Reflection**

### *The power of speech*

When I read this passage from James' letter there was something about it which felt familiar. And then I remembered a series of recent conversations with my three-year-old daughter Ilana.

First of all, an outline of general principles, 'Daddy, you need to give me your money. It's good manners.' The principle was duly noted though I hoped that any specific application would be delayed for a long time. But a couple of weeks later, what this meant became clearer 'You need to buy me a horse'. I was hoping to postpone this conversation for a good few years, I thought. But delay in responding is dangerous because interest compounds at an alarming rate. And so a couple of days later the proposed expense had multiplied 'You need to buy me a ship.'

Giving money away (see Ron and George's latest articles in Cutting Edge Camelot). A horse. A ship. The power of persuasive speech. So when I came to look at this passage in James I thought I have heard this before. All the notes are there. Just not necessarily in the right order.

But what is the point that James is making about the horse and the ship? First of all, these images have a powerful visual impact and demonstrate the truth that language can be immensely effective both for good and for harm. The bit viewed against the mighty horse is so seemingly insignificant just as is the rudder when seen in relation to the size of the ship. And yet it is these tiny parts which steer and control the whole.

As we think of this in relation to language we are probably all reminded of times when we have either hurt or been hurt by the power of words. That chance cutting remark which we might have wished to recall as soon as it was made. And yet it can become the source of such serious misunderstandings which can be so difficult to heal.

And so rightly James tells us that we need to tame the tongue. But how do we do this? One popular and practical piece of advice is to count to ten before we respond to someone when we are upset. Sometimes modern methods of communication such as emails or tweets with their relative speed and ease of delivery present particular dangers. We need to control such powerful technology rather than being controlled by it. Perhaps we need to ask ourselves whether an instant response to the communication that we have just received is needed. Might it not be better to have a night's sleep first? Do we even need to respond to it at all?

James also speaks of how we can use the tongue for different purposes to give both blessing and curses. It may surprise us to realise that one minute we can bless God and the next curse people who are made in the image of God. And yet we need to make these connections. It is a reminder to us

that our speech at all times needs to be consistent and to reflect the real attitudes of our hearts.

And yet the power of words can be very positive when used sincerely and well. I write this on the day that Anna is due to be ordained as priest in Wells. One of the very visible differences that this will make to Anna's ministry is that she will be able to pronounce words both of forgiveness and of blessing in the context of public worship. We all have a deep need to hear that we are both forgiven and blessed by God and when we truly receive such words the course of our lives are changed just as the bit changes the direction of the horse or the rudder the ship.

So the words we use matter. Oh, and by the way, neither the horse nor the ship have materialised. Yet.

*Tristram*

### **Points for Prayers**

- For our spiritual growth and discipleship as we respond to the good news of Jesus Christ
- For further services in the Group next month and particularly for Harvest services
- For Anna's ministry as priest
- 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
- Preparations to avert or minimise a second wave of coronavirus
- Our Bishops (please see notice below)

- For North Cadbury Church Primary School and Marchant Holliday school in our benefice, remembering also Horsington school as they proceed with their new school year
- 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.

### **The rule of six**

Some of us may be concerned that the new restriction on social gatherings to six people ('the rule of six') will impact on or even prevent services of public worship from taking place. Although the detailed Church of England guidance on this subject has yet to be updated it is our understanding that the new rule does not affect services of public worship. Accordingly our plans for forthcoming services remain unaltered and if they do need to change we will of course let you know as soon as possible.

### **Forthcoming services of public worship**

Please see the following schedule of services of public worship this coming Sunday.

A full schedule of services arranged in the Group for the whole of October will be published in this Sunday's edition of Cutting Edge Camelot.

#### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October

9.00 am, St Mary's Yarlinton, Communion

10.30 am, St John the Baptist, North Cheriton, Morning Worship

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

(Anna will preside)

## **Reopening churches for private prayer**

North Cadbury and Galhampton churches are normally open for private prayer on Wednesday afternoons. North Cadbury is open from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm and Galhampton from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm followed by Celtic Worship led by Alison at 7.00 pm.

## **Excalibur and the Parish Office**

Because of concerns relating to the hand delivery of parish magazines (see official Church of England guidance on this point) an electronic rather than a printed version of Excalibur will be continue to be produced for the time being. 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. The October Excalibur is now available on the website.

## **Online service to remember deaths during the pandemic**

In collaboration with Wells Cathedral, the diocese is to offer an online service to remember all those who have died during the Covid pandemic.

Led by Bishop Ruth and the Dean of Wells, families of the bereaved are invited to send in names of those whom they mourn, and candles will be lit and their names are read out.

Bishop Ruth said: “So many people weren’t able to attend funerals or grieve properly when their loved ones died in the last few months, because of restrictions imposed by the pandemic. We hope this service will offer people a chance to come together and mourn their loved ones by name, alongside others who have also been bereaved.”

The service will include music from members of the Music Foundation of Wells Cathedral, and prayers will be said by some of Somerset’s hospital chaplains. There will also be a reflection from someone who survived Covid

following weeks in intensive care.

The service will be available to watch on the [Wells Cathedral website](#) and here on the [website](#) of the Diocese of Bath and Wells from Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Update on Bishop Peter**

Bishop Peter thanks everyone for all the cards and other expressions of support which he has received. A card was sent to him on behalf of the Camelot Parishes as a whole. He says that he has been lifted on 'eagle's wings' through the love and prayers of others and he thinks that the treatment for leukaemia is going well. He is grateful that potential donors for a bone marrow transplant have been identified and he is preparing for such a transplant later this year. Please continue to pray for him and his family in this challenging time. Please pray also for Bishop Ruth and the rest of the Bishop's Staff as they take on the oversight of the diocese in his absence.

### **Anna's ministry as priest**

Anna will preside at Communion for the first time at 11.00 am on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October at St Michael's North Cadbury. We hope that those who usually attend this service will do so. We know that there will be others of you who will wish to support Anna in her new role. So, the rota will enable Anna to preside at Communions in as many of the Camelot churches as possible in the month following her priesting.

If you do not normally attend the First Sunday Communion at North Cadbury but would like to do so please do contact our churchwarden Caroline Joneleit-Hope([carolinejoneleithope@gmail.com](mailto:carolinejoneleithope@gmail.com)) so that we can check on the socially distanced capacity of the church. Otherwise, please do come to one of the other Communion services around the benefice at which

Anna will be presiding subsequently. The list of services in Cutting Edge Camelot will indicate which these services are.

### **Some personal good news**

It feels slightly strange in this time of restricted opportunities to meet in person to share personal good news in this way.

However, Angela and I did want to share with all of you one wonderful and joyful piece of personal news. That is that we are expecting our second child next March.

We are overjoyed by and immensely grateful for this gift from God and at the same time we would very much appreciate your holding us in your prayers over the coming months.

*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)