

CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT, No 72

Wednesday 25th November 2020

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

Welcome

Welcome to this midweek edition of Cutting Edge Camelot.

We will be saying a temporary farewell to Anna at the end of this week as she begins her maternity leave. We will be welcoming her back at the end of next year so that she can complete her curacy with us.

Presents for Anna and Tim’s baby have been arriving at the Rectory and we will be handing them over later this week. We will make a short video of this and post it on Vimeo next week.

Meanwhile Anna reflects below on the spiritual significance of her time so far in the Camelot Parishes.

We are planning to livestream a service from St Michael’s North Cadbury this coming Sunday, Advent Sunday. This has been made possible by a parishioner in Galhampton Daniel Gruner offering his professional expertise to us on a voluntary basis. We are very grateful for his generosity and indeed for the contributions to be made by others in this venture. This will include our organist Malcolm Gregory and our soloist Clare Leavold.

Later this week we anticipate having the full details of what will happen when lockdown ends next week. We should then be able to publish a schedule of services for December and Christmas.

Scripture Passage

Philippians 1. 3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reflection

Tristram has invited me to use this reflection as an opportunity to reflect on my curacy so far, as I 'pause' it to go on maternity leave. (A curacy is a sort of apprenticeship for those newly ordained: over three or four years, we learn all about ministry by getting stuck in.)

My curacy began officially when I was ordained by Bishop Peter in Wells Cathedral in June last year, but I was first invited to visit the Camelot Parishes in the autumn of 2018. Thankfully, both Tristram and I then said "Yes" to me doing my curacy here, so I had plenty of time to look forward to it and to wonder what it would be like (and to worry about Tristram's suggestion that, 'Confidence in navigating small country lanes would be helpful!'). It also gave me time to pray for this new place I was moving to and the people I would meet there. At a Quiet Day in January 2019, the focus was on the above passage from Philippians 1, and as I prayed with it, I

created a collage (see below). As I reflected on the words of Philippians 1, especially the last three verses, I realized that these were the words I wanted pray for the Camelot Parishes as I prepared to start my curacy here – so I thought I would use this passage in today’s reflection.



The letter to the Philippians was written by Paul to the church community in Philippi, and it is clear from the tone of the letter that this was a community he knew and loved well. Here he shares what he has been praying for them:

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Paul doesn’t simply pray that they will love Jesus more, in a slightly mushy way, but that their love will ‘overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight’. Another translation says, ‘your love will keep on growing in

knowledge and every kind of discernment’, and still another, ‘your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love’. This love is based on a true and deep understanding of who Jesus is and what he has done for us. Through knowing Jesus and his love more fully, we will come to love him more fully, and in doing so, to know his will for our lives so that we can produce ‘the harvest of righteousness’, fulfilling his purpose for our lives and thus bringing God glory.

So as Tim and I prepared to move to the Camelot Parishes, and as I prepared to start my curacy, that was my prayer: ‘that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best’. But it was also my prayer for myself, that my love for Jesus and my knowledge of Jesus would continue to increase as I came to live amongst you all, and came to see how Jesus was at work in your lives and in the communities here, so that I could discover the best way of serving Jesus in this place.

And since moving here, I have seen so many examples of how the love of Jesus overflows out of people and into the communities in which they live; through people offering their time to volunteer at breakfasts and coffee mornings, through people offering care and support to those who are struggling, through people committing to pray for the life of the Benefice – I could go on and on!

And now as I head off on maternity leave, I will be continuing to pray the words of Philippians 1 for all of you – all the people of the Camelot Parishes who I have come to know and love. And I will be praying that especially in these strange and challenging times, when we might need to rethink ‘what is best’ when it comes to sharing the love of Jesus with others, as the usual ways may not be available to us, that we will be blessed ‘with knowledge and full insight’:

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best

P.S. Please rest assured that my confidence and knowledge in navigating small country lanes has definitely improved, even if I can't claim to have full insight in this area yet!

Anna

Points for Prayers

- For our spiritual growth and discipleship and that our prayers might grow in the knowledge and insight of Jesus
- 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
- Give thanks for progress on the development of a vaccine
- Minimising the second wave of coronavirus through the new lockdown
- Communications within the Camelot Group and its churches during the new lockdown (please see notices below)
- 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.

Guidance on new lockdown

The basic guidance is contained on the government website which states that places of worship must close during the new lockdown 'apart from for the purposes of independent prayer, for funerals or funeral commemorative events, to broadcast an act of worship, to provide essential voluntary services or urgent public support services, for registered childcare, and to host permitted gatherings.'

An inclusive Communion celebrated on behalf of the benefice

During the second lockdown as in the first Ron and Pam will be celebrating Communion regularly in their home each Sunday at 10 am. Please be aware of this because even though no-one can join them they are praying for us all and hope that you will feel included in this act of Communion.

Private prayer

During the lockdown St Michael's North Cadbury will be open for private prayer on Sunday mornings from 10.30 am to 12 noon and on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm.

Galhampton church will also be open from 10.00 am to 11.00 am on Sunday mornings.

Everyone is welcome to come in, to pray quietly and to meditate on God's word (please bring your own Bible), or simply to soak in the peace and assurance sitting in the church can offer.

The Parish Office

The Parish Office is closed although Rob does come in regularly. In his absence please contact Rob via email (office@camelotparishes.org.uk) or on 01749 850934.

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.

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)