

CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT, No 74

Wednesday 2nd December 2020

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

Welcome

Welcome to this midweek edition of Cutting Edge Camelot.

Advent Sunday Vimeo Video

Renewed thanks to Dan Gruner and his team for the livestreaming of our Advent Sunday service. While many of you were able to see and enjoy the livestreaming not all of you will have done so for various reasons. If you would like to see a recorded version of the service it is now available on Vimeo at:-

<https://vimeo.com/485702964>

Anna’s maternity leave and Vimeo Video

Anna is now on maternity leave. Before the start of her leave we presented the gifts made to her at the Rectory and a recording of this presentation is now available on Vimeo at:-

<https://vimeo.com/485871395>

Scripture Passage

Mark 1: 4-5

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean

countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Colossians 2: 14

having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he (*Jesus*) took it away, nailing it to the cross.

Reflection

Has Christmas been cancelled this year or has it been saved? And if saved who has saved it? Who will be in our 'bubbles'? Will anyone? What will anyone do about church? Can anyone fathom the complexity of all the rules we need to navigate?

But all of this assumes that it is possible to cancel Christmas, that Christmas is an event of our own making and under our control. However, Christmas celebrates the coming of Christ into the world. Christ has been born at Bethlehem. This is an unchanging truth whichever way we remember and celebrate Christ's coming.

Cancel is a word that has for other reasons been much used this year. A new (and not wholly welcome) phrase has come into our vocabulary 'cancel culture'. Just as we cancel a subscription to a club or service when we no longer need it, so we 'cancel' someone who does or says something with which we do not agree or which offends us. We cancel them by refusing to listen to them and withdrawing any invitations made to them. Indeed our cancellation may go further so that we treat these people as if they do not exist.

Of course, although the phrase 'cancel culture' may be new the behaviour it describes is not. An earlier equivalent is 'blinking out' people when we walk straight past them again pretending that they do not exist. Or I can

remember sitting down at a table with other people and it being made very clear to me that I was not welcome and so being subjected to a form of 'cancellation'. Perhaps others have had the same experience.

So I do not think cancel culture should be welcomed. We need to find ways of engaging constructively with people with whom we disagree. Whatever their views we should always recognise their humanity, that they are made in the image of God just as we are. When we 'cancel' people we deny this and dehumanise them.

But did Jesus have His own and very different form of 'cancel' culture? In this first week of Advent we remember especially the ministry of John the Baptist. His ministry was one of 'cancelling' sins as people came to him in the Judaeian wilderness by the river Jordan, confessing their sins and then having these sins symbolically washed away through baptism.

John's ministry was, of course, simply a precursor to the even greater ministry of Jesus who baptised not with water but with the Holy Spirit. And as our quotation from the book of Colossians reminds us Jesus' ministry resulted in the ultimate cancellation of sins as He cancelled the written code of God's Law which we have all failed to live up to and nailed it to the Cross.

This 'cancellation' was unimaginably costly for Jesus but it resulted in forgiveness and a fresh start for us.

As we look around at our own world and as we look at the world of Jesus we find two very different forms of cancellation taking place. Jesus in the true sense has the power both to cancel and to save. What He cancels brings us into the enjoyment of our true humanity. What we cancel on the other hand impoverishes this humanity.

Tristram

Points for Prayers

- For our spiritual growth and discipleship
- 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
- Wedding of Harry and Georgia, St Michael's North Cadbury, Saturday 12th December
- 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.

Rules following lockdown

The Camelot Group falls within the area of South Somerset. This area (along with many others) has been placed in Tier 2 which is one of High Alert. Full guidance on what this means can be found on the government website:-

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

As far as places of worship are concerned, they are open although there are strict restrictions on socialising there. Weddings and funerals are also permitted with numbers restricted at weddings to 15 and at funerals to 30.

The government has produced new guidance relating to places of worship following the lockdown. You can read this at:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-from-2-december>

We are awaiting more detailed guidance on these matters from the church.

Carol singing guidance

The church has produced guidance relating to carol singing. This guidance is summarised as follows:-

Carol singing outdoors:- the congregation can sing as part of a service, allowing for appropriate social distancing.

Carol singing indoors:- a choir can sing but congregations cannot and the size of the choir needs to be limited so far as possible.

Door to door carol singing:- is permitted with social distancing.

For full details and links to appropriate government websites go to:-

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches#na>

Services of public worship this coming Sunday

This is the schedule of services for this coming Sunday:-

9.00 am, St Mary's Yarlinton, Communion

9.30 am, St John the Baptist North Cheriton, Camelot Morning Worship

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

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)*