

CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT, No 156

Sunday 1st May 2022

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

Welcome

Welcome to this Sunday’s edition of Cutting Edge Camelot.

Scripture Passage

John 21: 1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

⁵ Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?”

They answered him, “No.”

⁶ He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. ⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Reflection

When I was very small, we used to sing a chorus at Sunday School - *I will make you fishers of men if you follow me*. I have to confess that for a long time I thought Jesus was threatening to make us vicious old men. But when Jesus called his first disciples, he'd said he'd have them catching

people, not fish. But after the initial joy of the resurrection, when Jesus was sometimes there, and sometimes not, Peter said, "I'm going fishing." It was what he knew. But maybe he'd lost the knack, because he caught nothing. Until Jesus showed up, and told him to throw the net on the right side of the boat, not the wrong side, and there were a hundred and fifty three whoppers.

Coincidentally, the Roman naturalist Pliny, who died when Pompeii was destroyed, reported that it was widely believed at the time that there were a hundred and fifty three different kinds of fish in all the rivers and seas of the world, so this is a symbol of nobody being excluded from salvation. And if you want to be really silly about it, there are Ten Commandments, and seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, and that makes seventeen, and if you add together all the numbers from one to seventeen, it comes to a hundred and fifty three.

Maybe Jesus was hammering home the point that his disciples would be in the missionary business, and maybe they just thought "That's a lot of fish-how many are there?" and it was a hundred and fifty three. In any case, the net didn't break, and maybe that was a symbol of the church being big enough for all, or maybe it was just a good strong net.

Too many maybes. What's definite is there was a picnic on the beach, barbecued fresh fish, with bread.

If they had been in a room, there would have been an elephant in the room. Peter, the night Jesus was arrested, three times said he didn't know Jesus, wasn't a friend of Jesus, Jesus who? Which I suppose made him feel a bit awkward.

When I was about ten, playing about, I broke the glass in the front door. The front door was basically three panes of frosted glass. I broke all three pieces. My mum said, "Wait till your father comes home."

When Dad came home he brought glass with him, and putty, and he showed me how to roll the putty thin, and between us we replaced the glass in the front door. I knew I was forgiven because Dad let me help.

Three times Peter had denied Jesus, and three times Jesus asked him, “Do you love me?” and each time Peter answered, Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” Peter knew he was forgiven, that everything between him and the Lord was alright, because Jesus gave him a job to do. And what a job! Peter after that was always seen as the chief of the Apostles, preaching and teaching, and living up to the name Jesus gave him - the Rock - the foundation of the Christian church.

It’s easy for me to say “Your sins are forgiven.” That’s my Gospel, the good news I try to share. Easter time is about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus didn’t die because of anything *he’d* done wrong, but for all the things *we’ve* done wrong. God accepted the death of his Son as the price of all our sins, and our slate is wiped clean. In advance, and completely. But how do we really know we’re forgiven? Well, Jesus has given us a job to do, to be part of the great task of sharing that good news with everyone. We’re very much part of Team Jesus. So we forgive, forgive, forgive. And that’s hard. Most people have more to forgive than me. I’m hard put to think of anyone who’s done me a bad turn, but I think that’s unusual.

Jesus, remember, forgave the men who hammered the nails in. He forgave Peter’s denial, and he never said a bad word to Judas, who betrayed him “Do what you have to do, quickly,” he said, and in the garden, his words to Judas were of disappointment, not judgement or hatred. So the model we have for forgiveness is Jesus.

And somebody wiser than me once said, forgiving is pulling the knife out of your own wound. Forgiving is better than bearing a grudge. It’s a healing process, and we feel better for it.

Now what about the job Jesus has for us to do? He's trusting us. Some people in authority find it hard to delegate, because they don't trust their underlings to do the job the way they want it done. But Jesus trusts us with his great work, and because we're all individuals, he gives us plenty of scope to do it our way. The task is to share the news of Jesus risen and ascended, and the consequence that our sins, their sins, everybody's sins are forgiven. The task is to become a community of loving, caring people, focussed on Jesus as Lord and King. We might do that by telling people, or we might do it just by living our lives in a way that makes others wonder what we've got that they haven't.

As another wise person said to his followers, "Get out there and spread the Gospel - if you have to, use words."

Ron

Anna's new curacy

The details of Anna's new curacy have now been confirmed. She will serve the rest of her curacy in the Benefice of Budock at the church of St Budock in the Diocese of Truro. The benefice incorporates Budock Water as well as some of Falmouth. Anna will be licensed on 17th May.

The Bishop's Visit

Bishop Ruth's visit to the Camelot Parishes last Tuesday, 26th April, was very successful. She said that she was very impressed and indeed inspired and refreshed by all that she had seen and heard during the day. As well as coming away with a strong impression of the identity of the individual parishes she also picked up a strong sense of group identity and belonging.

New Bishop of Bath and Wells

It has been announced that our new Bishop of Bath and Wells will be the Rt Revd Michael Beasley. He is currently the Bishop of Hertford, a role which he has held since 2015. Prior to taking a fulltime role with the church, Bishop Michael was an epidemiologist, a background he was called on to use during the pandemic as a member of the Church of England's Covid task force.

Bishop Michael is already familiar with Somerset. His wife Lizzie is from a farming family from Somerset and prior to Bishop Michael being interviewed for the role of Bishop of Bath and Wells, they both undertook a 60 mile walk around the county.

Further details about Bishop Michael can be found on the Diocesan website, <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/news/new-bishop-of-bath-and-wells-announced.php/>

Points for Prayers

- Accepting God's forgiveness and forgiving others
- Peace and justice to prevail in the conflict between Russia and the Ukraine and for humanitarian efforts to help all those harmed by the conflict
- Continuing prevalence of covid cases and continued thanksgiving for the care, skill and courage of all healthcare workers
- Those whom we know who are facing illnesses of all kinds and have recently been bereaved
- Bishop Ruth's visit to the benefice last Tuesday
- For our new Bishop, Rt Revd Michael Beasley
- Anna's new curacy in Budock, Diocese of Truro

- For Elliscombe House in Higher Holton now reopened and for its first residents
- For North Cadbury church school and our other local schools as they continue their school terms
- Prayers and thanksgiving for contributions to the foodbanks and for those helping to take these to the foodbanks.

Hymn

A hymn which we are singing at North Cadbury and which speaks of the task which Jesus has given us to do is 'Go forth and tell.'

Services for this week and next

Sunday 1 st May	9.00 am Communion, Yarlington
Sunday 1 st May	9.30 am Camelot Matins, North Cheriton
Sunday 1 st May	11.00 am Group Communion, North Cadbury
Sunday 8 th May	9.30 am Communion, Galhampton
Sunday 8 th May	9.30 am Communion, North Cheriton
Sunday 8 th May	9.30 am Matins, Blackford
Sunday 8 th May	11.00 am Sunday Worship, Holton

Excalibur

Excalibur is back in paper form. It contains details of Camelot people, a record of baptisms, weddings and funerals undertaken through the church in the Camelot Parishes. The April edition of Excalibur has now been published online at camelotparishes.co.uk.

The Parish Office

If Rob is not in the Office during normal office hours please contact him via email (office@camelotparishes.org.uk) or on 01749 850934.

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)