

All Saints Alive

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

Devotion



Dear Friends,

Have you been stockpiling those "must reads" for those quieter days in summer when there may be more time? When we pick up a volume, whether it's Anna Karenina or the da Vinci Code, every story starts in the same way, as a blank page.

Imagine the opposite. You are given a series of jumbled words on a page and then instructed to organize these words to write your story. I was once given a set of words as fridge magnets and the idea was to construct "fridge poetry" for every day life! It started off well, and each day someone from the family constructed a different poem but then, somehow we just ran out of enthusiasm!

Lets return to the idea of writing a story: imagine that you are given words and then you are instructed to write your own story using the words.

Which task would you prefer?

'Blank page' or 'jumbled words'?

The Bible says that the early Christians *"devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42"*

While there are many words that we could highlight from this text, ones with equally profound meaning, there are two "key words" that are essential for the rest of the words to have their full effect.

"devoted themselves."

Central to the word 'devoted' is this word 'vow'.

As a priest I see many couples profess vows one to another during the marriage ceremony. What makes this moment so moving is the depth to which these vows are expressed wholly, and freely. One can be forced into a marriage, but no one can be forced to love. That is something that one must make the choice to give.

Just as in any relationship, the same is true in our life with God.

None of us come to God as a blank page. Rather, if we were totally honest, we resemble those jumbled words on a page and all of us hunger for God to write a story with our lives that is a really worthwhile read.

While we don't know what the next chapter of our lives will look like, what I do know is that if we devote ourselves to God wholly and freely, we will also see a demonstration of God in us and through us equal to that which was experienced in the church of Acts 2.

During these summer months, with the longer days and the opportunities that holidays or quieter times give us, get the deckchair out and ...instead of using all the time to read the latest paperback, let's spend some of the time in reflecting on God's amazing creation, our place in it (remembering St Paul's words, that we have all been adopted as God's children by grace) and what it means to be devoted to God.

Demonstration is God's part, devotion is ours. Lord.....make us wholly and freely.....devoted.

Love,
Jo

From Mick Holder



Dear Friends,
We wish you all a very happy and safe summer in whatever you do or wherever you travel.

The above picture is of St Mary's Hemsby where we now worship and where I am server and Cross bearer.

Peace be with you all

Mick Holder and family

Team Ministry

From the Archdeacon of Hertford
2nd June 2008

Dear Colleagues

I have just read with great interest the report in 'All Saints Alive' on the meeting you held about the proposed Team Ministry on 12 May 2008. My warmest congratulations to your 'staff reporters'. You seem to have had a very good meeting and I congratulate you on taking such a positive initiative.

If I might clear up two points reflected in the questions that were asked.

First, all licenses issued once the Team Ministry comes into place will be for a period of seven years. All these licenses, for each per-

son in post, will run concurrently from the date of the inauguration of the Team Ministry. However, this has become something of an academic point, because from 2010 fixed term licenses are abolished and we all move on to Common Tenure. What this means is that there will be regular review and a more realistic opportunity for priest, people and Bishop to assess needs and reach both sensible and pastoral conclusions about moving on.

Secondly, we are awaiting the formal consultation to be conducted by the Church Commissioners and expect that to happen any day. I hope this might be concluded in time for the formal inauguration some time in the autumn.

Again with my sincere thanks and warmest congratulations.

With kind regards

Trevor

Ven T Jones,
Archdeacon of Hertford

Since this letter was written, the formal consultation has begun. The relevant papers are on the notice board at the back of church.

