



FAMILY AFFECTION

Like many families, we make birthday and Christmas lists.

I still remember the birthday list of the son of a friend, the final one anyway; it began with *red/orange shirt, black belt, whistling key ring, then adds Woman, one that laughs at my jokes and agrees with my politics*, below this in his sister's writing come the words: 'you've got one she's called your mother', and below in my friend's writing he put 'dream on'.

For me, this is an example of affectionate love within a family.

This kind of love is not easy to develop and maintain. We need to feel safe enough to tease, banter and be playful with one another without fear of offence being given or taken.

Affection can be conveyed in so many ways: through words, tone of voice, facial expression, hugs and kisses. In the relaxed, enjoyable atmosphere that is generated, we can grow in confidence and in knowing and understanding each other.

We can learn to check and balance each other without getting too heavy about it; and how to disagree without being disagreeable. As a friend of mine puts it, '*you might as well curse your friends as wake them up early in the morning with a loud greeting*'. (From the Old Testament)

We will have some difficult times ahead and we might not agree with each other, the Shaped by God - Together process, lack of staff and Minster Communities are all areas of tension, so let's be kind to each other but also be honest about how we are doing and feeling.

I want to finish with two quotes:

Affection would not be affection if it was loudly and frequently expressed.

To produce it in public is like getting your household furniture out for a move.

C.S Lewis.

It is love and kindness of human hearts through which the divine reality comes home to people, whether they name it or not.

George. Merriam

Every blessing Revd. Rick Tett

Team Vicar

WORSHIP/FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS



LUNCH LIGHT our group that supports folk who are bereaved, is scheduled to meet again in church on **Friday 24th June between 12.30pm – 2.00pm**. So, if you have lost a loved one and would like some company, a chat and a bite to eat, why not drop in to St. Johns on the 24th. You will be made welcome. There is a charge of £3.

COFFEE ANDCHAT@CHURCH meeting this month is planned for **Tuesday 7th June between 9.30 and 11.00am**.

JUNE SERVICES ACROSS THE WOODFIELD TEAM.

We are still not able to open all of our 8 churches every Sunday, and so continue to move around on a rota basis. June's services look like this: **(all starting at 10am unless otherwise stated).**

<i>Pentecost</i> Sunday June 5 th	Donisthorpe (MP), Measham & Snarestone (HC), Packington ('Songs of Praise')
<i>Trinity Sunday</i> June 12 th	Appleby(MP), Packington & Normanton (HC)
Sunday June 19 th	Donisthorpe & Swebstone (HC), Measham (MP), Appleby (<i>Sunday People</i>)
Sunday June 26 th	Appleby & Norton (HC), Normanton (MP)

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR TO THE WOODFIELD TEAM



There were 11 applications, all good, from both the local area and the wider county and one from Nuneaton.

Many offered relevant experience in a church situation, others the wide skill set we were looking for.

Four candidates were shortlisted and invited to Interview on Tuesday, 10th May. two of these proved particularly strong and would both have fitted the profile with their skills and personalities.

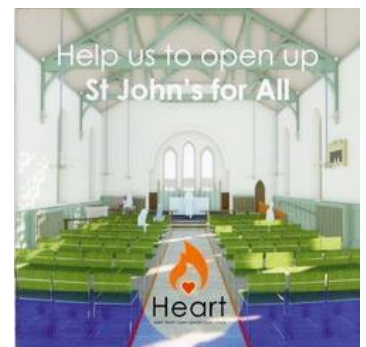
The Interview panel was unanimous in offering the post to Ruth Salt.

Ruth has accepted and it is hoped that she will be in place at the beginning of June.

"HEART", (open doors, open space, open minds),

The Project continues at a pace, to use St John's Church to provide not only spiritual sustenance but to create an Open Community Space for the use of all, and is at the stage of preparing final Fundraising documents in a bid to raise the remaining £180K.

We have created Videos and pictures which are available via our Facebook page: facebook.com/donisthorpestjohns and our YouTube page by searching for "St Johns Donisthorpe". These and other material are constantly being updated to keep you as best informed as we can.



They set out the project from different views of people involved and living in the community.

In Church at present there is a display of what we are trying to provide along with Brochures setting out what it will look like on completion, albeit these are Architects impressions. The real thing we envisage will be a brilliant place for all to enjoy themselves as they meet friends, carry out different activities and celebrate so many different occasions.

Please have a look at these Videos, pictures and let us know what you think.

By the time you are reading this the Exhibition will have taken to the road again in a further attempt at making all people aware of what we are trying to achieve. Our thanks go to Chris and Sue Keeley for their efforts in making this happen. We do need further help in making this happen in the future. It's not onerous but with others helping it makes life easier.

The team are continuing to work with our Architect, Peter Rogan and the appointed Building Contractor to finalise costs and set out what has to be done.

The Faculty sets out very clearly what is required including the removal of the various articles such as Pews, furnishings etc...

We have also confirmed that the project will take 8 - 10 months to complete and our plans include a start date of December 2022. You may begin to see some preliminary works starting before these dates.

As mentioned above Fund raising is now high on our agenda to get the remaining funds needed. If anyone has experience in this area or IT and could help, please let us know. If you would like any further information please get in touch at chairstjdonisthorpe@gmail.com
Barry Dryden

A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON 'THE ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST

Ascension Day has come and gone, it was on 26th May and it got missed; what with shortage of clergy and it being on a Thursday and all. It's a day which is all too often bypassed in the life of the church today. So in an effort to cover a base already passed I offer you this personal reflection, through a sermon I preached at St Laurence's Measham, way back in 2009 .

Text: Acts 1: 1 - 11

I think Jesus' Ascension is something we find hard to imagine. I confess that I find it difficult to think of the Ascension without picturing in my mind the Apollo spacecraft lift offs. And of course, I know that the idea of heaven up in the skies above and hell in the depths below is a pre scientific view that was allegedly mocked by the soviet cosmonaut, the first man in space, Yuri Gagarin with the words; "I don't see God up here."

So it is that I know that my pictures of the Ascension of Jesus are inevitably flawed. It is clearly beyond us to comprehend exactly what the disciples witnessed other than to appreciate that Jesus is not subject to the physical restraints that we experience.

Powerfully, Ascension reminds us that Jesus is no longer physically with us but yet he is alive and a presence in our lives and in the world.

But the disciples were struggling to come to terms with what was happening again. Struggling to see the point, it appears that Jesus is leaving them again going away a second time.

He had been taken from them before his work; their work, was complete; before a new Israel had been put in place, before he could do all the things they knew the Messiah would do.

His execution plunged the disciples into despair.

Then Jesus had returned, resurrected. The joy returned; the campaign was on again.

But now he's going away again and his mission is still incomplete. Even now they are still asking about The Messiah's expected role; "Lord, will you at this time give the Kingdom back to Israel?"

Confused and saddened they stand gazing into the sky trying as best they could to keep Jesus in sight and thereby maintain a physical contact with him.

I think they would have stayed there all day if they could have done in a vain attempt to maintain a contact that had existed in tangible form only moments before.

Day dreaming maybe. Questioning maybe, "What's the point".

Luke tells us they were snapped back into reality.

At the end of the reading we heard tonight he hits the nail on the head and he has two angels '(two men in white)' swinging the hammer.

"Men of Galilee" they say with more than a hint of mockery, "why do you stand staring into heaven?"

It's a great question you know.

Not only does it burst the bubble of that old religious cliché that 'up' somehow equals holy, it also brings the disciples down to earth with a bump. They are snapped back into the here and now by a couple of God's messengers and confronted with the reality of the task now before them.

An instant after Jesus' departure, comes the terrifying question: 'what on earth are we to do now?'

Or perhaps more accurately: 'what are we to do now, on earth?'

You know when I first became a Christian I can recall saying that I wasn't too concerned that Jesus had given me eternal life but I was pleased that it made me feel better in the here and now.

I was convinced at that time and I still remain so, that God wants me to do something for him even in my clumsy way, to build his kingdom here on earth.

As I get older perhaps my thoughts do wander more often to what it might be like – this life after death, that we here so much about. I try not to dwell on the subject too long because I think that is me just gazing up into the sky trying to keep sight of Jesus' heels, trying to imagine where he has gone to, while at the same time picturing myself, saved, and comfortable in that space with him.

So, I wonder if some of us are increasingly thinking of religion as though it were some sort of self-help therapy, all about our own mental and spiritual well-being or us having some special knowledge known only to the few and for our use only.

And so we end up gazing up into heaven and missing that people in our community are having a hard time or even showing a practical indifference to the material conditions of our neighbour.

This may be why I have a bit of a problem with the way some people understand the Ascension. There is something faintly comic about a whole bunch of people, gazing up into the clouds, imagining a final fleeting glimpse of the soles of Jesus' feet, and can to my way of thinking represent an over-fascination with the heavenly, airy, spiritual aspects of faith to the neglect and detriment of the physical. I mean we can become comfortable in our belief that 'we are alright Jack' to the extent that we do nothing or very little to ease the suffering or even show concern and care for others in this world.

But there is, another way of understanding the Ascension I think, one more consistent with a more earthly love thy neighbor approach.

I don't know where Jesus went to on that day and I really don't think it is worth worrying about too much.

I do know that if you want to find God round here, in Donisthorpe, Measham, Packington, Normanton, Appleby or anywhere in the Woodfield Team Area and beyond, take the advice of the angels and cease gazing up into the sky.

For God lives downstairs, alongside us, alongside those who are in need, the sick, the bereaved, the unemployed, the anxious, the lonely, the oppressed.

Many Christians see their mission in life as simply saving souls for Christ.

As long as we see 'salvation' as going to heaven when we die as the primary most important thing then the main work of the church will be seen in terms of saving souls for that future and that could be a mistake. The whole thing is geared up to life after death.

But you know it was Christian Aid week recently and I think they know what's important. I think they are really in tune with the message that Jesus gives us. Their slogan I think says it right.

'WE BELIEVE IN LIFE BEFORE DEATH'

The problem is you see, if we as individuals or as a church get too involved, and wound up in thinking about what happens to us when we die then we can lose track about what we should be doing as a church and as individuals in the here and now.

At the start of that great book of the Acts of the Apostles when the NT church kicked off in great style, enthusiasm, belief and trust, Luke hit the nail on the head with those two angels wielding the hammer. They got the disciples' attention away from the airy, spiritual, heavenly longing and got them looking down at their hands and feet. Got them to focus on what Jesus said was of second importance only to loving the Lord your God. Love your neighbor as yourself, with all the implications that that carries.

Derek Tomlin