SAINTS AND ANGELS

The magazine for the parish of
Ss Peter & Paul, with
St Michael and All Angels, Kettering

APRIL 2017
JACK WARWICK

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From Your Rector

David writes:

We are approaching the most sacred and important moment of the year for followers of Jesus. And yet at present we are still on the journey there, in the very distinctive season of Lent. And before we can celebrate the wonder and joy of Easter we need first to remind ourselves in Holy Week of the betrayal and suffering of Jesus.

The Christian Year gives shape to our devotions and allows us to focus on one aspect of the story at a time. But in reality, life is not like that. In our lives the moments of joy and expectation can often be intermingled with sadness and bad news. And it's true also in our lives as followers of Jesus: at any moment we might find ourselves in the wilderness with Jesus, or journeying with him towards the cross, experiencing the joy of resurrection and new life, or the fresh reality of God's presence as at Pentecost.

The stark contrasts between the disciplines of Lent, the suffering of Holy Week and the joy of Easter can mean we fail to see the way these are all connected, all part of the same story, all part of our lives as Christians. We catch a glimpse of this in the gospels when the risen Christ returns to his disciples. One of the ways they recognise him is by his scars, the visible signs of his suffering. This is the risen Christ, the visible sign of what a transformed and redeemed creation might one day look like. And he still has scars.

As Christians we long for the day when we and the whole of creation finally become what God intends for us. But we should not expect that there will be no memory, no sign of all that has gone wrong on the way there. That would be unreal, a fantasy world, rather than this world redeemed and transformed.

And what will be true then is true also in part now. God wants us to experience new life now. He wants us to be transformed now. This should be at the heart of the Christian experience. But the new life that God brings us is not a different life, a substitute life. It's our current lives, transformed, transfigured, given new depth, vitality, reality.

And something similar is true for our churches and our community. The striking words from the Book of Revelation - 'Behold, I make all things new' - is not just about our future. It's about now. God wants to bring new life to our churches. But that doesn't mean replacing them with something completely different. It means taking them in all their distinctive character and making them closer to what they
could and should be. All the scars will still be there. What makes our churches
distinctive, including their history, will be more important than ever.
But God wants to renew us and our churches. We’ll be talking together about this a
lot more after Easter.

God bless you all in the coming weeks.

David

david@peterandpaul.org.uk

Soup Kitchen and Food Bank

The Parish Soup Kitchen supported by so many people who
volunteer from within our Parish community and the wider
community has been operating now for almost two years.
As many of you know it opens every Thursday afternoon, is
kept very busy and the number of people using this facility
has grown considerably during recent months. As a result,
the food stocks that are used for providing Food Parcels are
very low. Everyone has been so generous in the past in the provision of foodstuffs
for the Food Bank and our Soup Kitchen, but increasing demand across our town is
stretching resources. We would be profoundly grateful for any additional help you
can give as we strive to support some of the people in our community who have so
little. Please leave any donations at the back of either of our churches.

The following foods are the most helpful, and please provide tinned foods with ring-
pulls where ever possible.

- Pasta
- Rice
- Tinned meats
- Tinned fish
- Jars of pasta sauce
- UHT Milk
- Cereals
- Tinned or Packet Soups
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Milk Puddings
- Cereal Bars

We are all called by Our Lord to clothe the naked, feed the hungry and visit those
imprisoned. This is what Kingdom building is all about, so please be as generous as
you are able - our clients (the people of our town), are profoundly grateful!

Lesley
Thoughts from the Bishop of Brixworth

As we approach Holy Week I’ve been reflecting upon film versions of Jesus’ death. (These notes were written just after this year’s Oscars’ ceremony). In particular, my thoughts have been drawn to Mel Gibson’s controversial film “The Passion”.

It caused a huge fuss amongst the “chattering classes”, but was a huge commercial success. Why did it create such a stir? “The Times” ran a special feature posing the question; “We say we are atheists – so why does a new film about Jesus cause us so much heart searching?”

One reviewer said; “This film is beautifully made and very powerful. The opening verse is from Isaiah 53 – ‘he was bruised for our iniquities’ - and the overall theme which is brought out very sensitively, is to remind us of just how it was God’s love for us that led Jesus to the Cross. At the end of the viewing the audience just sat quite stunned. It is the most powerful presentation of the passion I have ever seen - basically I just sat with tears in my eyes for most of the film. There is also a very moving and clever scene at the death of Jesus where from a ‘heavens’ eye view something falls to earth and you realise it is a tear from the Father’s eye”.

In the past it was often the court jester who was able to speak the truth no one else dared utter. It was the comedian Al Murray who came nearest to explaining why the passion of Jesus touches such a raw nerve; “I for one never forget that Jesus died for my sins, which was nice of him seeing that I didn’t ask and he went ahead and did it anyway. Let’s face it, that’s a mate, you’d have to buy him a pint”. The issue is engagement. The passion of Jesus demands a response, we cannot remain mere observers.

Bishop Stephen Cottrell writes of “the profligate love of God”. The real problem with the passion is that we cannot ignore someone who loves us so much that we have to take notice, we have to respond to God’s call.

At Easter we shall be offered the opportunity to renew our commitment to follow Jesus. Let’s do so with new passion.

With my love and prayers,

+John
Bishop of Brixworth
Confirmation Preparation – Some Reflections on the Way

I have had the privilege of walking alongside those adults preparing for baptism and confirmation at Easter, or attending preparation to reflect on and renew their understanding of our faith. I never cease to wonder at the way God works through people’s lives to bring us to faith and to bring us back when we have strayed.

These are reflections from three of our group. Michelle attends St Michael's and is preparing to be confirmed, Max attends Ss Peter and Paul and is preparing to be baptised and confirmed and Marian is attending in order to reaffirm the promises she made sixty years ago!

Kate Bowers

Michelle Brown

I chose to take part in the confirmation classes because I wanted to make a firm commitment to my Christian faith. The classes have been a good opportunity to discuss and learn more about different aspects of Christianity with other people who are also preparing to be confirmed.

So far, it has been a very rewarding experience as well as a personal religious journey. I have learnt much more about key areas of the Christian faith including God, the Bible, prayer, worship and the church, through my own reading and also through discussion with others. I have really enjoyed the classes and feel as though I have gained a better understanding of what it means to be a Christian and also my relationship with God has been strengthened.

Max Cruttwell

My name is Max Cruttwell, I am 42 years old and along with my wonderful wife Bev and two young boys, William and Edward - 8 and 2.5 years old - moved to the area nearly a year ago. My own faith journey began as most children with Sunday school and learning about Jesus through activity and lessons from the Bible. I was a member of the Cubs then Scouts and helping out in the community and adventure was fun. Through my loving parents I was guided in how I should behave, right from wrong, although through my teenage years often had a slightly different view!

I have attended many churches throughout my 42 years but from the first time I entered St Peter and Pauls, the warmth and love in your community has radiated throughout the services and made my family and I extremely welcome and included. The more I have attended (which has been tricky with work) has led me to take the next step in learning and practising my faith, and Confirmation classes have been
wonderful. Not only have I made new friends, I have had engaging and challenging conversations surrounding all aspects of God, Jesus, worship along with other subjects, and I am very excited about being a part of your family. Thank you all

**Marian Richardson**

My life began with the church when I was a child, then living in Surrey. It was a small village called Owlsmoor, one long road and a few houses in the back streets. My sister and I were encouraged to go to church and it became a regular practice. I really enjoyed going and one Easter the Nuns came to teach us, which I enjoyed immensely and for a long time I wanted to be a Nun! As I grew older I went to a much larger church in the nearest town to where I lived, in Crowthorne, Berkshire. I joined the choir and then started confirmation classes. Because my father was in Italy during the second world war I was not baptised, so on March 17th 1957 I was baptised and confirmed. Just before my 14th birthday my family moved to Oundle, and then to Northampton. From that time on I went to different churches but not regularly. When I married and had children I eventually settled in Geddington. My twin daughters went to the church school, and again I was involved with the church. As time moved on I never went to church much, then I met Deanna Long. She was a great inspiration to me and eventually I started going to the Parish Church of Ss Peter and Paul, on a Wednesday for the Eucharist. The more I went the more I wanted to be involved within the church. Now I go on Sundays and have met some lovely people.

I wanted to go to confirmation classes this year to reaffirm my previously made vows. I have met some lovely people and hope to learn more as time goes on. I hope to read more of the Bible at home, and perhaps eventually join a home study group.

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Celebrating the Saints

Dietrich Bonhoeffer  Lutheran Pastor, Martyr, 1945

“Silence in the face of evil, is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Whether we have been meeting in groups on a Tuesday or Wednesday during Lent, or working on our own, many of us in the Parish have been reading and grappling with Rowan Williams book ‘Being Disciples – Essentials of the Christian Life’. It has been, I think, a very rewarding time – both for those of us who have been leading the groups and for those of us who have been exploring something of the godly wisdom and insight drawn from the deep wells of Rowan Williams personal faith and profound knowledge and understanding of theology and Christian tradition. (If you haven’t yet managed to read it – well, it’s never too late and there are still some copies available)!

Sentences and phrases seemed to jump off the page for many of us giving springboards for thought and discussion. One such sentence was a quote from a poem by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, written in 1944 while in Tegel prison. Bonhoeffer speaks of his struggle as he wrestles with that gulf between the ‘me’ that ‘they’ see – a confident, prayerful, courageous person - and what he is experiencing in the depths of himself – weakness, loss and whimpering dread. ‘Who am I?’ he asks. His answer is that he doesn’t have to decide, for who he really is in the hands of God. And so we are reminded that we are far, far more than what we and others may see; we are far more than we realise in the eyes of God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer has stayed with me during these past weeks, conscious that his struggle is something of our struggle also in varying degrees and at different moments in our lives. And so this prompted me to offer something about him and his life as our Celebration of the Saints for this edition.

Born in 1906, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran Pastor, theologian and an anti-Nazi dissident and founding member of the Confession Church. He was known for his staunch resistance to the Nazi dictatorship and vocal in opposing Hitler’s euthanasia programme and genocidal persecution of the Jews. One of eight children, Dietrich studied theology, ultimately becoming a Doctor of Theology from the University of Berlin. After graduating, he went to America for further post-graduate study and a teaching fellowship at the New York Union Theological Seminary. During this time he travelled widely, visiting Italy, Libya, Spain, Mexico, and Cuba and the experience gave him a wider outlook on life. He was moved by the concept of the Church’s involvement in social justice and protection of those who were oppressed. His wide travels also encouraged a greater interest in ecumenism.
Bonhoeffer was ordained in 1931 and during the next few years, he continued to teach and to travel; he would use every opportunity at international gatherings to rally people in their opposition to the attempts to amalgamate Nazi nationalism with the Christian gospel. In 1933 he accepted a two year appointment as Pastor to a German-speaking Protestant church in London.

Banned from teaching and harassed by Hitler’s regime, Bonhoeffer returned to the USA in 1939 at the invitation of the Union Theological Seminary in New York. But he quickly began to regret his decision and despite encouragement from friends not to do so, he returned to Germany. He wrote to Reinhold Neibuhr saying “I have come to the conclusion that I made a mistake in coming to America. I must live through this difficult period in our national history with the people of Germany. I will have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war if I do not share the trials of this time with my people...” His defiant opposition to the Nazi regime led to his arrest in 1943 and imprisonment at Tegel Prison, and later after the failed bomb plot of July 20th, 1944, Bonhoeffer was moved to the Gestapo’s high-security prison, before being transferred to Buchenwald concentration camp and finally Flossenburg concentration camp.

Even during the privations of the concentration camp, Bonhoeffer retained a deep spirituality which was evident to other prisoners. Bonhoeffer continued to minister his fellow prisoners.

On April 8th, 1945 he was given a cursory court martial and sentenced to death. Bonhoeffer was executed along with his older brother, Klaus on the 9th April 1945. Dietrich Bonhoeffer remained true to his faith in God and his understanding of the Christian gospel; he paid the ultimate price. He has been a source of inspiration for many other people, among them Martin Luther King and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. What follows is the poem written by Bonhoeffer while in prison, an extract of which appears in Rowan Williams book ‘Being Disciples’ and prompted this brief resume of his life.

Who am I?
Who am I? They often tell me
I would step from my cell’s confinement
calmly, cheerfully, firmly,
like a squire from his country-house.

Who am I? They often tell me
I would talk to my warders
freely and friendly and clearly,
as though it were mine to command.
Who am I? They also tell me
I would bear the days of misfortune
equally, smilingly, proudly,
like one accustomed to win.

Am I then really all that which others tell of?
Or am I only what I know of myself,
restless and longing and sick, like a bird in a cage,
struggling for breath,
as though hands were compressing my throat,
yeering for colours, for flowers, for the voices of birds,
thirsting for words of kindness, for neighbourliness,
trembling with anger at despotism and petty humiliation,
tossing in expectation of great events,
powerlessly trembling for friends at an infinite distance,
weary and empty at praying, at thinking, at making,
faint, and ready to say farewell to it all?

Who am I? this or the other?
Am I one person today, and tomorrow another?
Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,
and before myself a contemptibly woebegone weakling?
Or is something within me still like a beaten army,
fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.
Whoever I am, thou knowest, O God, I am thine.

Lesley McCormack

For your thanksgiving and prayers:
Those to be baptised and confirmed at the Easter Vigil:
   Max Cruttwell

Those to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil:
   Michelle Brown, Alice Howe, Sandy Schlosser

Those to be baptised at Ss Peter & Paul on Easter Day:
   Edward Thomas Cruttwell, William George Cruttwell
Holy Week 2017
All services at Ss Peter & Paul unless otherwise noted

Palm Sunday, April 9th
7.45am  Said Eucharist with distribution and blessing of palms
9.00am  Eucharist with hymns at St. Michael’s, with
distribution and blessing of palms, and procession from
the Scout Hut to the Church.
10.30am Sung Eucharist with distribution and blessing of palms,
and procession from the Market Place to the Church.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week
April 10th—12th
8.30am  Morning Prayer

12.15pm Said Eucharist and homily (Wednesday only)
7.30pm  Said Eucharist and homily
8.00pm  Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday, April 13th
8.30am  Morning Prayer

5.00pm  Evening Prayer
7.30pm  Sung Eucharist of the Lord’s Supper, with the
Washing of Feet, Stripping of the Altars,
and Watch of the Passion until Midnight.

Good Friday, April 14th
10.00am Family Service, at St. Michael’s
12 Noon The Three Hours Devotion
including
1.30pm  The Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion

Holy Saturday, April 15th
8.30pm  The Paschal Vigil, Lighting of the New Fire, Baptism,
Confirmation, and first Eucharist of Easter.
10.30pm or thereabouts Parish Party in the Parish Hall to
celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ.
President & Preacher: The Rt. Revd John Holbrook
Bishop of Brixworth

Easter Day, April 16th
7.45am  Said Eucharist
9.00am  Eucharist with hymns, at St. Michael’s
10.30am Festal Sung Eucharist and Holy Baptism
Our Easter Vigil on Saturday 15th April will be presided over by the Bishop of Brixworth, John Holbrook, who will also baptise and confirm candidates at that service. Bishop John is a familiar face in the parish and a good friend, but who is he?

The Rt Revd John Holbrook was installed as Bishop of Brixworth on 29 June 2011. Born in 1962 and growing up in Bristol, he was educated at Bristol Cathedral School. He went on to study theology at St Peter’s College Oxford and then trained for ministry at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. He served as curate at St Mary’s Barnes in Southwark Diocese (1986-1989), senior curate at St Mary’s Bletchley in Oxford Diocese (1989-1993), where he was also curate in charge of North Bletchley Anglican-Baptist Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP). He went on to become vicar of Adderbury and Milton near Banbury (1993-2002).

Immediately prior to his appointment as Bishop of Brixworth he was Rector of Wimborne Minster in Salisbury Diocese (2002-2011). In addition, he was Priest in Charge of small rural churches at Hinton Martel, Holt, Horton, Chalbury, Witchampton and the Crichels and Rural Dean of Wimborne Deanery. He has a continuing interest in the partnership of British and overseas churches and as a student he spent nine months working alongside the Anglican Chaplain in Amman, Jordan. Since then he has been involved in church-related projects in Sudan and Pakistan. Bishop John has been a governor of both primary and secondary schools, and was involved in an Ashridge Business School project to develop a programme in work-place spirituality. He is committed to Christian unity and to building healthy inter-church relationships.

Representing Salisbury Diocese on the national Diocesan Missioners’ Network, he been involved in preparing and scrutinising the diocesan budget, and in reviewing diocesan structures and parish development. He has shared in diocesan lay training programmes, and contributed a chapter “On being mission-shaped civic church” in Mission shaped parish (2006), co-edited by the former Mission Enabler in Peterborough Diocese, Tim Sledge, and the current bishop of Liverpool, Rt Revd Paul Bayes.

The Bishop has a particular concern for education. He chairs the Diocesan Board of Education which recently established a Multi-Academy Trust (PDET) and serves on the Board of the David Ross Educational Trust and the Nominations Committee of the University of Northampton. He is also chair of the governing body establishing a new 400 student primary school (Hayfield Cross) in East Kettering.

Bishop John counts sea sailing, swimming, football (he is a life-long Bristol City fan), and current affairs in the Middle East amongst his interests. He is an avid reader of poetry, fiction, biography and history, as well as theology. He is married to Elizabeth, a tax accountant, and they have two grown up children.
BOOK REVIEW

Made for Goodness
Desmond Tutu & Mpho Tutu

Desmond Tutu has always been for me a source of inspiration so it was with joy and delight that I found this in a bookstore recently. It did not disappoint!

This book, written with Tutu’s youngest daughter, Mpho, also an Anglican Priest, is rooted in his fundamental belief that every single person is hard-wired for goodness and therefore, evil cannot have the last word. ‘Goodness is not just our impulse, it is our essence.’ (p6).

This book does not shy away from the human experience of pain and suffering and the Archbishop writes from the experience of living through the unspeakable suffering born by so many people living within a country torn apart by the horrors and brutality of apartheid. But he also address the many ways each of us inflict pain and suffering upon each other with a careless word, thoughtless behaviour, and our struggle to forgive past hurts.

Yet there is hope. Sharing powerful and deeply moving stories for his experience and the experience of others affected by the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; sharing deeply personal stories from their shared life and priestly experience, Desmond and Mpho Tutu show us how we can find our way back to goodness by changing our attitudes, by practicing forgiveness and by prayer. Then we will begin to see the goodness and beauty of others – and in ourselves. And when we begin to do this, our views change and that in turn can have a very positive impact upon the way we act. And how we act towards each other affects not only ourselves, but everything in the world, for the better.

We are challenged to remember that ‘even our worst enemies are God’s beloved children. What kind of God could endure the sight of God’s own children screaming in eternal paid? If we believe in the good God, we must believe that we are all made to inhabit heaven. We are made for goodness.’ (p135). And the goodness of God will always draw us home – and time is on God’s side! It happened in South Africa and it happened in Northern Ireland. This is an inspirational book that challenges, but gives enormous hope and encouragement. I cannot commend it highly enough!

Lesley McCormack
Music and Me

My earliest musical memories date back to the 1950s. It was as a 4 year old being taken to Sunday school at Rothwell that I remember hearing *Glad That I Live Am I That The Sky Is Blue*. Even these days when I am out walking in the countryside I still hum this tune to myself after almost 60 years, from hearing it as a small child. I think back to the time, when I see the children in our church community.

Moving on a couple of years, I remember artists such as Frank Ifield singing *I Remember You*, and Cliff Richard, *The Young Ones*. All that was to change with the Beatles directing the course of popular music over the next few years. I remember being taken to the Granada cinema by my grandmother to see the Beatles film *A Hard Days Night*. I play the film from time to time enjoying the songs, it brings back fond memories of her, and her kindness to me as a child.

As a paperboy in Rothwell, I saw the headlines that the Beatles where breaking up, strange as it may seem now it sent shock waves through the music scene at the time, therefore; I looked for other music to follow. The folk rock scene from the West coast of America, and artists such as James Taylor. Neil Young, the Eagles, took my interest. I think that somewhere in my attic I still have Neil Young’s *After The Goldrush*. I also became a fan of the Geordie group Lindisfarne, enjoying some great songs such as *Meet Me On The Corner, Fog On The Tyne, and Winter Song*. I have recently purchased a turntable, having got rid of my old one a few years ago thinking that vinyl was not coming back. Mercifully I still have some of my old albums.

In my church life we have so many great hymns to choose from, but I suppose amongst my favourites would be *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*, Bernadette Farrell’s *Christ Be Our Light* (My wife Sarah who goes to St Edward’s will jokingly say that we have pinched one of theirs!) as of course Bernadette Farrell is a well known Catholic hymn writer. The wonderful melody of *The Day Thou Gavest Lord Has Ended*, moves me every time I hear it. *The Lord’s My Shepherd* reminds me of my dad. The reason being that he kept a simple faith. He struggled with illness throughout most of his life. He was not a church goer and our ceremonies and rituals would not mean anything to him, but that did not stop him from saying the 23rd psalm in a prayer before going to sleep every evening. He was a keen gardener, in his greenhouse he would be close to creation, nurturing new life in his plants. *Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace*, the prayer of St Frances, whom we celebrate on 4 October, was my mother's birthday. She, like St Francis loved wildlife and the countryside.
My interest in music came in useful as a presenter on Kettering hospital Radio, from 1981 for a period of 34 years, I played a variety of music, anything from Daniel O’Donnell through to 60s/70s/80s/rock/middle of the road ballads/classical. One of my all time favourite classical pieces is Vaughan Williams Fantasia on a theme by Thomas Tallis. I first heard it being used on a television documentary and not realising what it was I made further enquiries and it is now part of my music collection. It's a powerful dramatic piece. Moving across the music spectrum, I have the Rolling Stones latest album For You Blue. It's good to hear these guys in their 70s going back to their musical roots by playing the music that inspired them. My current taste in music consists of varying genres, from modern folk bands like The Imagined Village and well known bands such as Fairport Convention.

Well, I suppose that brings things up to date for me. We need to reflect and give thanks to all who provide and perform, including our church music that inspires us to worship on a Sunday.

David Skelham

A Concert for Cransley
Please join us for a wonderful evening of musical entertainment, to raise funds for the much loved local Cransley Hospice

13th May, 7.00pm at SS Peter & Paul
with the Masquerade Choir and the Bishop Stopford Brass Band. £10 per ticket, £8 for children up to 16 years.
There will also be a raffle with excellent prizes

We will present a most enjoyable variety of music brought to you by the Masquerade Choir, led by Mr Barry Clark and Bishop Stopford Brass Band, led by Mr Brad Turnbull. Featuring local talented musical soloists, to include Mark Pescott, organist, bringing us the famous Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, by JS Bach; Maddie Boreham, vocal soprano soloist and Stephen Cook, xylophonist.

Our guest will be the Revd Dr John Smith on behalf of Cransley Hospice
Refreshments will be served at the end of the evening.

Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to enjoy amazing musical performances whilst giving to a fantastic charity. Please contact Linda on 01536 312720 or 07771597842 or email lindamarkie@hotmail.co.uk to reserve tickets. Or call the Cransley Fundraising Office on 01536 452423.
The latest Diocesan Synod was held at Bishop Stopford School on Saturday 25 March.

One talk that seemed most relevant to Ss Peter and Paul community was about how to encourage teenagers to come into and stay at church. The speaker, Mary Hawes, is the National Youth and Children’s Adviser for The Church of England. I felt this talk was about involving every member of the church community. That is why I am sharing the information, for myself and others who don’t specialise in this work, so that the ideas can be considered by each of us.

The talk began with a biblical focus. This was the parable of the sower of seeds. The theme from that was Church Gardening…. to plant the seeds of welcoming 14-20 year olds. Jesus tells his listeners in this parable, let anyone with ears … listen. Mary suggested several kinds of listening for a church in this context. This was to deeply listen to how young people want to engage with church. This includes hearing general advice from recent national surveys and also asking local young people what works for them to encourage and keep them engaged with us.

Much of the survey information reflects how many of us say we were engaged as young people in church. It also questions how to develop a church that nurtures and challenges both ourselves and others that may join our church community.

Young people from mid-teens to early twenties want to be seen as fully part of the church. They are most comfortable alongside everyone from an older age group. The feedback is they will stay if they feel included in every aspect of the church. This means inter-generational relationships. Mary gave many examples of a single teenager in a church of much older adults. Their repeated reason for being there was that someone in their mid 80’s gave them the time and safe space to ask about them and walk alongside them as they wrestled with the difficult questions of life.

One person, who was in a wheelchair, was quoted as just asking young people...tell me about your week. That allowed these children to build a relationship with an adult who gives them unconditional kindness and a non-family, but God-focussed friendship. These ‘difficult questions’ ranged from why cancer takes a loved parent to terrorism. With these church mentors from a different age group, they could find a unique identity, rather than being an exam statistic during the peaks of transitional
moments of exam pressures at 14, 16, 18 years old, when school life is also offering huge changes in their identity.

The joy for me is that these young people don’t want hip cool mentors, but real genuine people who are just themselves and share their own identity.

There were good examples of inter-generational groups. These shared similar interests between young and older people, which are not age specific such as gardening, knitting and photography. And with their schooling how much, Mary suggested, could they contribute to church life with their IT skills?

The young people in this survey reminded the Church that we are ONE BODY and that these young people are an equal part of that ONE BODY through baptism. They are our fellow disciples not wanting their separate worship. These are difficult changes for us to make when we are used to a certain routine of church worship and church life.

One of the more complex issues from the survey was the idea of letting young people have communion before they are confirmed. This has happened in some churches, so that young people feel they are included in the family meal. Many churches who have allowed communion before confirmation, have been reinvigorated in their understanding of the Eucharist.

Mary acknowledged that any change in order to welcome new people and groups into a community and routine of worship are always costly. But that cost isn’t financial but is about our willingness to be flexible to listen to these young people and change to include them in our church community as fellow disciples. Mary returned to her biblical theme to conclude. As Jesus said, let anyone with ears listen. This is his request in the change he asked of those who heard him and it is the request he makes to us again to open up to a new generation with exciting and fresh ideas of how we can become more of the ONE BODY with them and them with us.

The rest of the agenda for the meeting included lots of the usual topics like finances and a report by Liz Holdsworth as one of the General Synod members. There was also an explanation of the Bishops Policy for Safeguarding Children and Adults which was then formally adopted.

Sarah Pelling
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Services

Sunday

7.45am.  Said Eucharist at Ss Peter & Paul (BCP)
9.00am.  Said Eucharist with hymns at St. Michael's
         (Sunday School in Scout Hut)
10.30am. Sung Eucharist at Ss Peter & Paul
         (Sunday Club in Hall)
6.00pm.  Evensong at Ss Peter & Paul
         (on the last Sunday of each month or as advertised)

Weekdays

Wednesday 12.15pm. Said Eucharist at Ss Peter & Paul
Thursday  9.30am. Said Eucharist at St. Michael's
Friday    9.15am. Said Eucharist at Ss Peter & Paul

Daily Offices: Said at Ss Peter & Paul
8.30 am Morning Prayer Monday—Friday
5.00 pm Evening Prayer on Monday and Friday only

See Diary/Newsletter for other services on Saints’ days.

Clergy

Rector

The Revd David Walsh
The Rectory, Church Walk,
Kettering, NN16 0DJ
email: david@peterandpaul.org.uk

Assistant Priest

The Revd Canon Lesley McCormack
Barnbrook, Water Lane,
Chelveston, Wellingborough, NN9 6AP
Tel: 01933 626636 email: lesley@peterandpaul.org.uk

For full details of church officials & organisations
see the information brochure available in church, or visit our
Parish Web site: www.peterandpaul.org.uk