

Saltash Team Newsletter

"Discovering God's Kingdom, Growing the Church"

Message from Rev Cathy Sigrist, Priest-in-Charge

An Accompanied Ministry Development (AMD) update

I have recently attended my first AMD College – along with 11 other colleagues from across the Diocese. The following is an introduction to AMD and up-date of what happened at the College.

Introduction

Our communities have never been more in need of the compassionate care and reconciling love of God, and we, the Church, are God's chosen means of blessing others.

To do this we need to reach out to our communities with the love of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ, but to do this we need both to continue faithfully to serve our communities in ways which have stood the test of time and to find new and relevant ways of "being Church" in today's world. The aim of Accompanied Ministry Development is to help us do just that – to encourage Christian communities to flourish.

The aim of Accompanied Ministry development

Just as people come in all shapes and sizes, so churches flourish differently as they emphasise their own particular way of "being church". This is why AMD does not seek to direct and tell us what to do, but as the title indicates it accompanies us on our journey as we try to discover what God is calling us to do, to support His mission, here in Saltash.

Prayer underpins – or should underpin all that we do. It is the foundation on which we can build. Without Prayer we will not have a firm foundation and we will not succeed – it is as simple as that. Therefore Prayer is the first of the objectives for AMD, followed by:

- Sharing our faith
- Being reconciled and reconciling communities
- Worship – especially among Young People
- Living our faith wherever we are

Themes

The AMD programme has been designed to help us to develop in all of these areas while we focus on five important areas, namely:

1. **God's People** : Who are we? What has God called us to do? (This was the theme of the first AMD College that I have just attended).
2. **God's Reconciliation** : How do we live out this reconciliation with each other and demonstrate his love?
3. **God's Good News** : How is the gospel proclaimed in word and deed?
4. **Living for God** : How do we live for God every day, not just on Sundays?
5. **Worshipping God** : How is our worship a witness to the gospel?

AMD will also give us opportunities to learn from each other and value each other's gifts and ministries.

So what are our first steps and how do we go about this?

In order to help and support me, I have an AMD Advisor/mentor. I meet with my advisor shortly after I have attended an AMD college so that I can reflect on the College and identify possible implications for the parish.

In addition, I am currently forming a "Ministry Development Team" for each parish. This team will act as a bridge between the Clergy College and the Parish. Together we will try to discern God's vision for our places of worship, as we reflect on each College theme and think about our gifts and strengths and the needs of the community.

These discussions will then lead on to a "Parish Programme" which involves the whole church. The Parish Programme consists of two elements for each theme:

- Ministry Development Team meetings and
- Parish Programme activities (more to follow at a later date).

The Parish Programme will look at each of the AMD's five themes and theme resources will be provided as necessary.

If you have completed the "Our Church" questionnaire then you have already contributed to the programme. The questionnaires are being compiled and the results will be made available in the near future. This will give us a benchmark to tell us just where we are at this time.

Accompanied Ministry Development is about re-invigorating us all - the People of God - and Growing the Church where we are. The Parish Programme culminates in a "Bishop's Conference" in about 15 months time. This is an opportunity for us to present to one of the Bishops our vision and future plans for our parishes and for agreeing anticipated outcomes and what support and training we may need to achieve them. This is not about building castles in the sky but about seeking to respond to God's goodness to us in faith and faithfulness.

I hope that this gives you an overview of the AMD Programme, but if anyone has any questions, please do let me know and I will be happy to discuss the Programme in further detail. Moving on to the first Clergy College:

God's People: Who are we? What has God called us to do?

To enable us to look to the future to try and discern what God is calling us to do in our parishes (God's Mission), we need to have an understanding of where we have come from and our own stories and God's story before we begin. We are not, so to speak, starting with a completely blank sheet of paper.

So, by looking at God's story where we are helps us to:

- Understand the Bible's "grand narrative" involving God reaching out to His world
- To question and appreciate some of the implications of this "grand narrative" and
- To recognise how the local church's story is connected to God's action in the world.

As part of our background our first College included sessions on: Being a priest today; Christian Scripture: Who we are and what do we do?; Christian Thinking: Church stories; Ministry and Leadership: Power and authority; Ministry and Leadership: Leading the People of God; Christian Ministry: Gardening with God's people - to name but a few.

Don't worry – I am not going to ask you to cover all the areas, however, I would like us to think and explore our own **Church's story**- our "**grand narrative**" i.e. God's mission and the mission of the people of God – i.e. us - where we are today. Stories are important – just think about the stories or parables that Jesus told and the impact that they had?

To help our AMD group on our journey we studied scripture and discussed what it meant: 1 Peter 2: 4-12

"Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2: 4 & 5)....

We then discussed being a "pilgrim" people:

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. (1 Peter 2: 9)."

And explored some of our own "church stories" and how our stories shape the present and the various voices (individuals) that make up the story. Church stories are important because they help us:

- to understand the faith story of our parish
- to be aware of significant events in that story which have shaped the faith journey of our local congregations and communities
- appreciate what God has done in the past and what He's doing now, locally
- understand our local content and the changes which have happened in the community over time which might challenge us as we journey forward.

Often when we read the Bible we read it verse by verse and chapter by chapter, as a "stand alone" book, but it is important to see how the books of the Bible fit together as one story. A bit like chapters in a book. One way of splitting up the books in the Bible is as follows:

- Creation and fall
- Israel
- Jesus
- Early Church
- **Church** (we are currently a part of this chapter)
- New Heavens and New Earth

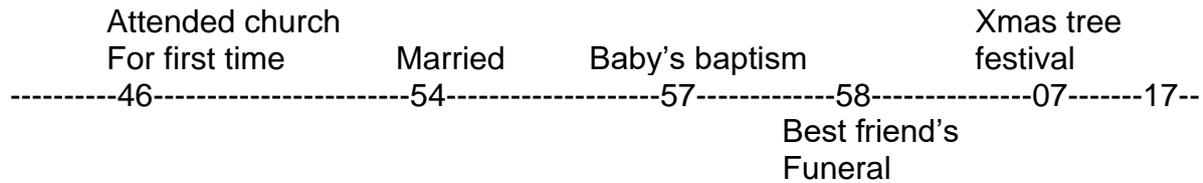
So having said that we are currently in the Church section (see above) where do we go and what do we do right now to begin our journey together?

The next steps

1. If you would like to get a head start read Exodus 19: 4-6.

"You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

2. Have a chat with a friend and try to identify the significant elements of the passage....
3. Then take a blank sheet of paper and begin to think about your own church story – your own timeline of the time that you have been coming to church. What are the highs and lows? Which service do you most remember and why? Did you stop coming to church for some reason and then come back? When did events begin and perhaps come to an end and why? When did these things happen?
4. We can then combine everyone's "story" to one church story and begin to see just where God is working right now. The good/happy events should go above the line and the not so good below. The time line below gives you an idea of just some of the events that might form part of your time line – but yours will be much longer and include far more events – so please start thinking about it and get drawing.



5. Once you have thought about the major events in your life and the life of the church, I will ask everyone to transfer their own highs and lows on a very long piece of paper – rather like the Bayeux Tapestry – that will stretch around a room or along a wall so that we can begin to get a real feel of our Churches' history and the part they have played in God's mission right here in Saltash and begin to discern where we are now being led.

If you would like to discuss or have any questions please do ask.

Yours in Christ

Cathy

Message of thanks from Revd Josephine Lobb

Dear friends,

Many, many thanks for your kindness and generosity at my retirement recently as Team Vicar. I have been quite overwhelmed by the amount of cards, letters, gifts and messages received over the past weeks.

I have used the generous cash gifts received from the churches to purchase a new camera and a wall clock, both of which I will very much enjoy using in my future time of more leisure.

The memory of my final Eucharist on 9th July, with so many familiar faces present will remain with me and thank you to all who took part in that service in any way and also to those who contributed and helped with the delicious buffet lunch afterwards. I enjoyed every moment of celebrating, preaching and sharing those wonderful hours together that day and I thank God for them.

Thank you one and all.

With my prayers and blessing to you all.

Yours

Revd Josie / Jo

St Stephens Ladies Group (wives)

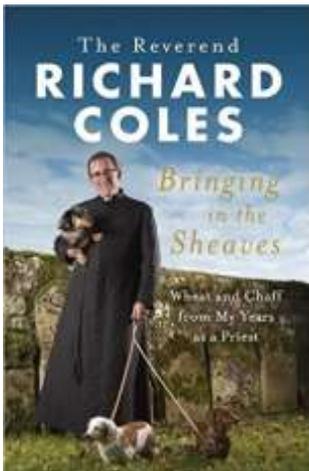
There is no meeting in August. So I look forward to seeing the group September 21st at 7.30 with Laura speaking to us. We are always happy for ladies who would like to join our small but happy group.

Saltash Team Ministry Mothers' Union

Our next meeting will be in September when we will learn from Ernie Reynolds about his life in the police.



CREATION FEST 5 – 11 August 2017 Royal Cornwall Events Centre, Wadebridge,
MUSIC, BIBLE, SKATE, FUN Creation Fest is a week full of many adventures - it's free, it's fun, it's for everyone! Discover free-to-attend music stages, a fitness factory, family activities, creative art workshops, undercover skate park, kids and teen venues, speciality coffee, interactive seminars, and more. Creation Fest exists to share the joy of a God, who created us with purpose, and to encourage believers to follow Christ with great passion. For more information and to book camping please visit creationfest.org.uk You can visit for one day, one evening or camp for the week!



Book Reviews

Bringing in the Sheaves

Rev Richard Coles

Published by W&N RRP £20

Rev Richard Coles will be familiar to anyone who listens to Saturday Live on BBC Radio 4, watches Have I Got News for You, or enjoys 80s pop music!

He recently visited the Literary Festival at Dartington to speak about his latest book *Bringing in the Sheaves*. His first book, *Fathomless Riches* was a very honest account of his life and his calling to be a priest. This book gives an account of his life as a priest using the context of the church year, it is just as honest as the first book. This fascinating insight into clergy life is a highly recommended read.

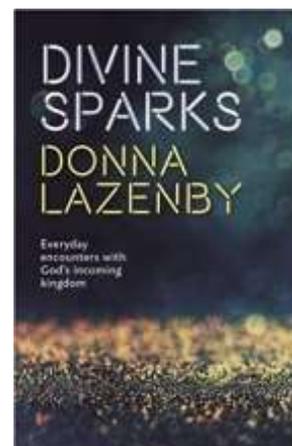
Divine Sparks

Rev Donna Lazenby

Published by SPCK RRP£9.99

Donna originates from Saltash, moving to Bere Alston and Torquay later on. Having trained at Westcott House and served her curacy in a Fresh Expression church, Donna is now the Director of St Mellitus South West, a theological college opening in Plymouth this September.

Many of our everyday encounters in the world are touched by the divine, if we were only aware of it. We may find it impossible to miss God in the great interruptions of human existence, but God often finds a humbler dwelling-place as this book explores. It is worth reading for the chapter on the film *Frozen* alone!



ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Despite concerns about the Weather and the Grounds of our Church, our Summer Fair turned out to be a huge success. The team work and friendship in getting the show on the road was amazing. Thank you all so much who helped in anyway. Yet again the people of Saltash and beyond turned out in force to support us and helped us raise an incredible £2091.14.

A few weeks later The Rock Choir were back at our Church for another extremely well attended concert. We have never sold 85 tickets up front for a concert before! A great time was had by all and it was great to see Rev Cathy dancing away in the centre aisle. The concert raised a further £829.31.

Future Events at St. Stephen's Church

Thursday 17th August – Coach trip to Salisbury – A few seats still remain contact Steve on 07855600241 if interested.

Saturday 9th September – Last Night of the Proms 7pm – Further Information to follow in next month's newsletter & tickets to go on sale soon.

Saturday 23rd September – Craft and Gift Fair 10am to 2pm

Saturday 30th September – Harvest Supper 6.30pm – More details to follow

Friday 6th October – Salvation Army Concert 7.30pm start - Tickets £5 on sale a month before

Saturday 7th October – Café Abundance Mid-day – 1.30pm

Saturday 14th October – Food Market/Table Top Sale 9am to 11.30am

Saturday 21st October – Wesley Craft Fair (Fundraising Stalls Present)

Saturday 11th November – November Fair 10am to 2pm

Thursday 16th November – Bath Christmas Shopper – More details to follow

Friday 17th November – St. Stephens School Christmas Fair – (Fundraising Stalls Present)

Friday 24th November – Christmas Shopping Evening 6.30pm – 9pm

Friday 1st December – Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir - A Christmas Concert - 7.30pm Start - Tickets £5 on sale a month before

Friday 15th December – Christian Aid Big Sing – Truro Cathedral – Details TBC

Messy Church

The next Messy Church will be on 16 September at 3pm, volunteers are needed for a wide range of roles.

St Nicholas and St Faith Social Committee

August 5th 12th 19th & 26th All Day Breakfasts 10 am – 2 pm Last Orders 1.30 pm

Editor Required!

Laura is leaving us in September to start Ordination Training full time with St Mellitus South West. Our grateful thanks to Laura for everything that she has contributed and she goes with our blessing as she continues the next part of her journey in answering God's call to ordination.

This leaves the Newsletter and the Social media sites - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - in need of an editor,

Safeguarding - adults. It may be worth noting that the Diocese prefer the adult and children roles to be the same person.

DBS identity checking

please speak to Rev Cathy if you are interested in helping to keep the Newsletter going.

Please send your articles to: saltashparishnewsletter@gmail.com or pop it in to the Team Office. **Deadline 22nd September.**