

Dear all,

I am currently in the middle of the Diocesan Clergy Gathering – this year mainly online. I must admit, this suits me, as I don't need to travel up to Lincoln for it. Needless to say, as with everything these days in the diocese, the context of the gathering is the Time to Change Together (TTCT) process.

Two particular foci of the meetings so far have been shared ministry and diversity. Although the theological underpinning is interesting and helpful, it never ceases to amaze me that either of these needs discussing – it all seems so obvious. And yet, so often, they don't happen.

Shared ministry means the ministry of the whole people of God in a place, not just relying on the clergy. While this is a fully biblical concept, unfortunately the ghosts of clericalism and 'Father knows best' (or 'Mother' as well now) still lurk.

The Ordinal, which contains the service of Ordination, says the following about Ordination to the Priesthood.

God calls his people to follow Christ, and forms us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of his kingdom.

To serve this royal priesthood, God has given particular ministries. Priests are ordained to lead God's people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel. They share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church, delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being. They are to set the example of the Good Shepherd always before them as the pattern of their calling. With the Bishop and their fellow presbyters, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of word and sacrament, that we all may grow into the fullness of Christ and be a living sacrifice acceptable to God...

Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever. Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins.

With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love. They are to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith. They are to unfold the Scriptures, to preach the word in season and out of season, and to declare the mighty acts of God. They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. They are to bless the people in God's name. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death. Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

And in their spare time...!

What a calling! But note the references to 'God's people'. Specifically *Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.*

This should not be seen as a 'covering up the gaps', but rather an encouragement and celebration of the calling that all members of the Body of Christ have. In 1 Corinthians 12 & 14, Paul tells us that every member of the church has a ministry, a gifting. None are to be considered lesser, or unimportant. And without the range of ministry, the church will be impoverished, the 'body' will not function properly. Let us encourage one another in our giftings.

One final point. I was struck anew by the phrase *They share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church, delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being.* I leave that for your consideration.

The lectionary readings for Sunday morning are: Isaiah 65: 1-9; Galatians 3: 23-end; and Luke 8: 26-39. The Psalm is Psalm 22: 19-28.

The hymns for the service are [Christ is made the sure foundation Hymn - St Paul's Cathedral Platinum Jubilee Service - YouTube](#), [Dear Lord and Father of mankind Hymn - Westminster Abbey \(with lyrics\) - YouTube](#), [To God Be The Glory \(Royal Albert Hall, London\) - YouTube](#)

Anglican Chant [Psalm 22: My God, my God, look upon me - YouTube](#)

The Psalm Project [My God, My God, why \(Psalm 22\) - YouTube](#)

A Holocaust Lament [Psalm 22 Holocaust Lament - YouTube](#)

Another contemporary take [Psalm 22- Joel Limpic- The Artist Bible - YouTube](#)

Anthems suggested for Trinity include:

[All Shall Be Well - David Ogden - YouTube](#)

[Howells: Like as the Hart - YouTube](#) (Based on Psalm 42 – the alternative psalm for today).

[Voces8 – 'Be Still My Soul' \(Sibelius: Finlandia\) - YouTube](#)

[Sicut Cervus – Palestrina - YouTube](#) (Based on Psalm 42 – the alternative psalm for today).

[»Calmus Ensemble« | "Prayer for the Healing of the Sick" John Tavener \(Stuttgart 29.03.2019\) - YouTube](#)

Don't forget...

DO NOT MISS!

Priory Church
Deeping St James

Rose and Sweet Pea Show

Sat 25th June, 2022. 1-4.30pm

Grand Raffle	Vicar's Arms Bar
Afternoon Teas	Children's Games
BBQ	Pony & trap rides
Plant Stall	and so much more!

Fun for all!

Horticultural Show in Church. Classes for flowers, fruit and veg, baking, art, craft and children's competitions. Full details on Priory Church website dsj.org.uk or phone 01778 348107



Come and enjoy an afternoon of entertainments from local schools and groups, children's games, pony and trap rides, wheel of fortune, stalls, raffle, afternoon teas, Vicar's Arms Bar, BBQ and much more. Pink slips, giving details of the Horticultural Show are available at the back of church or at Sam's Convenience store, Rycroft Avenue.

Could you make cakes for the teas and to sell, or act as a relief steward in the church and on the stalls, helping with children's games, tea refreshments or manning the BBQ? Tickets will be available for the Grand Draw with many fabulous prizes kindly donated by local businesses. Could you sell some books to your friends and family? There will be posters and flyers to distribute and so much more. Please have a word with Nick or Jan if you can help in any way.

There is also a request for donations of plants for the choir plant stall and a further reminder for donations for the children's tombola.

The Vicar's Arms will be selling a limited run of a craft beer called Benyn (Cornish for 'woman'), brewed for International Women's Day by the Vicar's daughter, and highly recommended by the vicar!



And also:

Pennyless



Penny Stevens on violin and Les Woods playing guitar form a distinctive and powerful sound as they range through the world of original and roots folk music, high energy and fun!

Saturday 9th July, 2022

Priory Hall Garden, DSJ

Bring your own picnic. Garden open from 6pm.
Music starts 7pm. Event inside if wet.

Tickets £10 (children free) include teas or coffee
from J Astle 01778 346879 or V Worthington
01778 343860

 Priory Church



Stay safe.

Blessings and love

Mark