



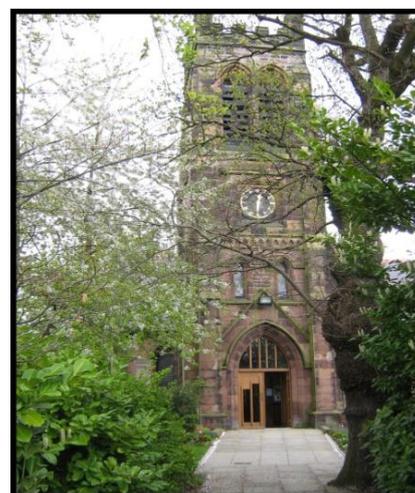
ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S MARCH 2022 ISSUE

Editor's email: mirrie1@sky.com

Articles for the April issue to me by 20th March 2022 please.

Church website

www.halewoodparish.org



***Please feel free to send me any articles that may be of interest to our readers.
Email address above. Margaret***

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

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email: halewoodparish@btconnect.com**

TEAM VICAR

**Andrew Radford
revandyhhc@gmail.com
St Hilda's Rectory
07966033648**

TEAM RECTOR

**Vacancy
The Rectory
Rectory Drive
Halewood
St Marys Warden
rosezanne@icloud.com**

YOUTH & COMMUNITY

**Andrew Parsons
07867489463
Andrew.circuitryouth@gmail.com**

**Natasia.circuitchildren@gmail.com
07867489463**

LAY READERS

**Matthew Hargreaves
07810872987
mattharg@mac.com**

**Jen Radford
07966624729
jennyradford@hotmail.
co.uk.carol@hotmail.
Carol Burke
Burkie.carol@hotmail.co.uk
07588848667
Adam Grey 07814727622
adam_grey@msn.com**

ST NICHOLAS WARDENS

**Graham Elliott
07516852066**

**Sandra Thomas
0151 487 5676**

**ST NICHOLAS DEPUTY
WARDEN**

**Andrew Reynolds
07776250718
andy@nadiareynolds.co.uk**

**Lesley Webb
0151 4877234/07852778839
Lawebb74.hotmail.com**

**Alison Shacklady
288 Higher Rd, H'wood
L26 9UF
486 2415/07909652442
Alison1.shacklady@
btinternet.com**

ST MARY'S

**METHODIST STEWARDS
(for Sth Lpool Circuit)**

**Gill Dover 487 5137
gillian.dover@gmail.com**

**Mark Harrison
51 Hever Drive
Halewood
L26 6LN, 487 0086**

**Aileen Best 0151 486 3171
aileen99@talktalk.net**

MINISTRY MESSAGE

I recently returned from a holiday to Disneyland Paris with our godchildren and their parents. We had been planning this trip for 2 years and it had to be cancelled multiple times due to the impact of COVID. To finally be able to go, and just spend time having fun with friends, was an absolute joy (even if the French weather was not so joyous!). It almost felt normal! Now that COVID restrictions have been legally lifted, life is starting to shift again. It is an unnerving experience trying to navigate the world without the safety barriers of clear guidelines, recognising that COVID is still very much present and remains a significant source of worry for many who remain vulnerable. This new phase has made me reflect on what other bits of 'normal' are starting to return.

On the first Sunday of Advent last year, I was at St. Nicholas for a service of Holy Communion. I realised it was the first time I had shared in Holy Communion in one of our churches since before the pandemic. It was a deeply moving moment, saying the familiar words, receiving the bread and the wine again. What had pre-pandemic been entirely normal and taken completely for granted struck me afresh as powerful and vital. I realised I had been starving for this. I was hungry to meet with Jesus in bread and wine again.

But why does this matter? Can't we meet with Jesus anywhere? Yes, of course! We can know and experience the life and love of God in many ways and places by the Spirit. Yet – Holy Communion (or Eucharist or Mass or Lord's Supper) is one of the things, along with baptism, that Jesus has invited us to do and has promised to be present at in a special way. We have a word for it – a sacrament. Sacraments are places where God promises to be at work, revealing God's own self and drawing us deeper into friendship. On the road to Emmaus the disciples walked along the road with Jesus – but didn't recognise him. Jesus opened the scriptures to them and taught them, and their hearts "burned within them" (Luke 24:32), but it was now when Jesus "took bread, blessed, broke it and gave it to them" that "their eyes were opened, and they recognised him" (Luke 24: 30-21).

We are currently in the season of Lent, a time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter, of walking with Jesus to the cross and beyond. In Lent, we seek afresh to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles" (Hebrews 12:1). When we break bread and share wine together in Holy Communion this is more than just a neat visual aid, or a simple picture. By the Holy Spirit we are drawn into the saving events of cross and resurrection not just as passive observers but as *participants*. When we share communion, the past events of crucifixion and resurrection and the future hope of new creation are made real and present by the Holy Spirit for us to share in.

Bishop Paul has recently retired and will be much missed by the Diocese of Liverpool. His image of the Kingdom of God as "the table of the poor man" has become very important to me. He writes "the poor man's name is Jesus who, though he was rich for our sakes, became poor so that through his poverty we might become rich. And if you sit at his table

he will feed you, and he will ask you to feed others; he will serve you and he will ask you to serve others; he will love you and he will ask you to love others”¹.

As we journey through Lent and face the hard reality of our own sin and failure as well as the ways in which we have been sinned against by others, let us gather again at the table. Let us gather again as God’s people at the table of the poor man, Jesus, in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. We are in a challenging time as a community and are now well into our interregnum. This places additional responsibility on Andy, our Team Vicar, our wardens and PCC/HCCs and all those who serve in ministry in any way in our churches. Do please pray for and support each other during this time. God never stops working – even in an interregnum! - even in our own frailty and weakness.

My prayer for our three communities across Halewood and Hunt’s Cross this Lent and as we move into Holy Week and Easter is that we would find ourselves loved and welcomed and fed at the table, and be transformed to love, welcome and feed others.

Adam

¹“The Table” Paul Bayes (2019) p3.

Updating the History of our Churches

Sheila Bersin has reminded us that it is over 25 years since any kind of written history of either of our churches was done. We have three written histories:

- Centenary of Halewood Parish Church James Eccles 1939 (Just St Nicholas’)
- Riding the Changes Owen Eva 1989 (Both Churches)
- The First Thirty Years Harry Allen 1996 (Just St Mary’s)

Pam Beesley has offered to try and produce an updated history from 1990- 2020 (ish) by collating information that people send to her. So, if you have anything you could write which would contribute to this, please send it to Pam at zzambesi@yahoo.co.uk

OF INTEREST?

‘Threads through Creation’ is a spectacular display of twelve huge silk panels retelling the creation story from the first pages of the Bible. It’s a vibrant combination of silks, hand-dyed materials, metallic leathers, gold leaf – with miles of thread and eight million stitches!

<https://chestercathedral.com/event/threads-through-creation/2022-02-11/>

Space, The Universe and Everything at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral

Space, The Universe and Everything is a light and sound show like no other. In just one night, travel through space, light and time - from the first step on the Moon to the edge of the Universe then back again, without leaving the inside of the Cathedral

Go to <https://www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk> to purchase tickets

For further information and pictures please see the second part of this magazine.

MARCH SERVICES

- Wednesday 2nd March: 8.00 pm Night Prayer Zoom online
- Thursday 3rd March: 9.15 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion
- Sunday 6th March: ***Lent 1 (Luke 4: 1-13, Romans 10: 8b - 13)***
10.30 am St Mary's Morning Worship: Garry Critchley
11.00 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion: Andy Radford
6.30 pm St Nicholas' Evening Worship: Adam Grey
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Adam Grey
- Wednesday 9th March: 8.00 pm Night Prayer Zoom online
- Thursday 10th March: 9.15 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion: Andy Radford
- Sunday 13th March: ***Lent 2 (Luke 13: 31-35, Philippians 3: 17 - 4.1)***
10.30 am St Mary's Holy Communion: Andy Radford/Jen Radford
11.00 am St Nicholas' Morning Worship: Carol Burke
12.15 and 1.00 pm Baptisms
6.30 pm St Nicholas' Evening Worship: Carol Burke
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Matthew Hargreaves
- Wednesday 16th March: 8.00 pm Night Prayer Zoom online
- Thursday 17th March: 9.15 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion: Andy Radford
- Sunday 20th March: ***Lent 3 (Luke 13: 1 – 9, 1 Corinthians 10: 1 – 13)***
10.30 am St Mary's Morning Worship: Adam Grey
11.00 am St Nicholas' Morning Worship: Matthew Hargreaves
6.30 pm St Nicholas' Holy Communion: Andy Radford
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy Radford
- Wednesday 23rd March: 8.00 pm Night Prayer Zoom online
- Thursday 24th March: 9.15 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion: Andy Radford
- Sunday 27th March: ***Mothering Sunday (Luke 2: 33 – 35, 1 Samuel 1: 20 - 28)***
10.30 am St Mary's GMJC: Nicola Hutton
11.00 am St Nicholas' Parade/GMJC: Matthew Hargreaves
6.30 pm St Nicholas' Evening Worship: Paul Wilson
11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Andy Radford
- Wednesday 30th March: 8.00 pm Night Prayer Zoom online
- Thursday 31st March: 9.15 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion: Andy Radford



PARISH WALK – JANUARY 2022

Today, Sat 29th Jan 2022, we planned to meet at 1pm, with a walk through some local parks, followed by a meal at Allerton Hall (The Pub in the Park).

However, due to the 50 mph winds expected the walk was shortened, with a later meeting time, in order to shorten the risks of loose timber heading our way.

As with most of our walks, the weather did not play a big part in our day. It was dry, with sunshine and Penni's decision to delay a bit meant that the winds had reduced.

We started at the Pub in the Park and then across the road to Allerton Towers, a quick photo by some fallen trees (from an earlier storm) and on past the Allerton Tower Orangery, part of a former mansion, designed by the architect of St George's Hall.

A brief trip onto Menlove Avenue and then we nipped in smartish to enter Allerton Manor Golf Course. Fortunately the golfers had wimped out in the wind and the scene was very peaceful. After a circular walk around the golf course we headed back towards our planned meal at Allerton Hall.

Richard Conlon ducked us all safely through the railings and back into the grounds of Allerton Hall, where we were met with a lovely sunset above the tree line.

We met Colin and Jean Critchley, renowned former leaders of our church walks, at Allerton Hall and had a lovely meal and natter. It was a shorter walk than usual, less than 4 miles, but it proved to be a lovely stroll, followed by great fellowship and food.



THE UNION FLAG IS UP!

Queen Elizabeth II is such an institution that it's easy to forget she wasn't supposed to have become Queen at all.

Born in 1926, Elizabeth was the daughter of King George V's second son, and had little expectation of succeeding to the throne until her uncle, King Edward VIII, abdicated in 1936 to marry Wallis Simpson. On her father's death on 6 February 1952, 25 year old Elizabeth was called upon to assume the throne, beginning a momentous reign.

This weekend Queen Elizabeth II will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years on the throne.

While that weekend marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the main celebrations are planned for an extended weekend in June. The Accession Day is typically a sombre one for Queen Elizabeth; her succession to the throne took place on 6 February 1952, once she received the news of her father King George VI's death. She was officially crowned a year later on 2 June 1953. The Queen usually marks her Accession Day in private, historically choosing to spend her time quietly reflecting at Sandringham.



SMILE AND RAISE MONEY!

Tom Beesley has registered our charity, Halewood Ecumenical Partnership, with Amazon Smile. If you pick us as your chosen charity, every time you shop on Amazon they will make a donation to us. It doesn't cost you, the customer, anything. So, if you haven't already chosen a charity or would like to change your charity just click on the link next time you shop at Amazon or when you are invited on the website to pick a charity. Just search for Halewood Ecumenical Partnership.

Thanks everyone! Alison





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Lent 2022

Andy Radford has sent the following message about some events during Lent:

Can I encourage you to take some time out to grow together during this Lent period? It is traditionally a time to reflect on life and to recommit ourselves to the call of Christ upon our lives.

We have a couple of things to get involved with that will definitely aid you in your journey of faith:

1. Lent course - this is an opportunity to explore blockages in our growth as believers and also a time where we might receive healing for the stuff of life that we carry. It runs for five Mondays starting on Monday 7th March, 8.00 pm - 9.15pm - (14th, 21st, 28th March and 4th April).

Email parishcohhc@gmail.com to get involved!

2. Prayer days - 9th March and 6th April. These are days when we can join across the three churches to pray for the issues affecting us, also take time out to worship God. We're asking everyone to commit to just fifteen minutes to spend time with God. Why not try to do this and see how it goes. **Email me to get involved!**

Let's join together to grow in our faith and love for God and see what happens?

An Introduction to Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

Join us for a spiritual journey during lent, as we explore how we grow spiritually and emotionally through engagement with God through His word and in prayer. We will explore various issues including recovering from loss, growing through difficulty, and healing for damaged emotions.



Each week we will have some worship, a short talk, and discussions in breakout groups. The aim will be to point to ways in which we can look beneath the surface of problems and break the power of past wounds, failures, sins and circumstances to live a life of leaning in to God more for his grace.

In many ways this is a good time to explore these issues as many of us have experienced loss, difficulty and challenge in our families, work places and elsewhere as a consequence of the pandemic. This course will help us grow in confidence and have a greater sense of wholeness. It will also equip us to help others in dealing with anxiety and anger that affects so many at this time.

To book your place on the course please contact Jenny by email parishcohhc@gmail.com (or if you haven't got internet phone Andy on 07966 033648)

World Day of Prayer

As usual, THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will take place on the first Friday in March which, this year, falls on 4th MARCH and ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH will be welcoming everyone to join them. For those of you who might be joining us for the first time, this is a once a year ecumenical event where St. Nicholas, St. Mary's, St. Hilda's, St. Columba and St. John Vianny will gather together with people all over the world to pray. Posters are now on display giving further details



Traidcraft

Thank you to all of our customers and supporters who have kept us going over the last two years. We are pleased to announce that we will be recommencing our face to face stalls in March. The first will be on Sunday 13th March at the St Nicholas' Centre after the service. Hopefully we will be coming to St Mary's sometime very soon. We also have some new Spring Catalogues available for browsing. If you would like to see one please phone/text Penni on 07990953334 - no obligation to buy! There is a wide range of Easter eggs available as well as fairly traded food, clothing and gifts. It will be good to be back!

There is a fascinating history of Liverpool schools to be found at liverpool-schools.co.uk: why not see if your school is in it?

This archive of Liverpool schools was started in Summer 2006. Obviously, it's still in its very early stages and there are bound to be errors. This is an ongoing project, and I hope people will contribute with corrections, memories, images and information. Please send to:



info@liverpool-schools.co.uk

Liverpool has always been a city of religious diversity, and the lists of schools reflect this. From the earliest Directories there are Board Schools and Church of England schools as well as Catholic, Presbyterian, Jewish, Methodist, Wesleyan, Quaker, Muslim and other more esoteric schools. I hope I've got the classifications and listings right - if not, please contact me and put me right!

info@liverpool-schools.co.uk

FAB GROUP – Friendship after bereavement

Losing someone we love is something most of us will have to go through at some point in our lives. Each experience is different and personal to us, but knowing how other people have dealt with it can be very helpful. In the FAB Group, you can share your experiences of how you've coped with the death of a loved one, or ask questions about how others have dealt with such difficult times. What some of our members say:



"After the death of my husband in 2011 I found out about the FAB Group. Everybody welcomed me and I have made many friends and help to organise social occasions. I look forward to our chats and friendship."

"FAB was a lifeline in my time of need and resulted in firm friendships."

"I had counselling at Listening Ear after I lost my partner. I was still very low but was then signposted to the FAB Group. I never miss a meeting, as I enjoy the company and the outings with people who were finding life so different and difficult. It still isn't easy, but bearable."

"I joined the FAB Group in 2008. It was a lifeline for me as I was feeling so low. I also enjoy our evenings out."

"I enjoy my time in FAB. It's a very special time meeting up with friends who all have had a bereavement. It also helps me get through the day."

"I joined the FAB Group because I never left the house after my husband died. It's been a great help to me. I now enjoy going out with the group."

FAB Group meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at the St Nicholas Centre.

Tel: 0151 488 6648.

Email: enquiries@listening-ear.co.uk

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERING

Junior Church at St Nicholas - volunteers urgently needed

Monica Sharma has taken over from Mary Carew as Leader of the Junior Church and urgently needs some more volunteer helpers to put on the rota. If you can help, please contact Monica at monica_dharni@hotmail.com.

Volunteers needed please

We are planning to restart serving tea and coffee after our Sunday morning services at St Nicholas' from Sunday 6th March. We could do with a few more volunteers to join the rota. You could join as a family group, with a friend or on your own and we will match you up with another volunteer.

Please contact Alison Shacklady alison1.shacklady@btinternet.com or Lesley Webb lwebb74@hotmail.com



“We asked food bank managers and users across the UK, and these are all the things people say consistently – time and time again – they need, but they are not things people often think to buy,” says Hodson. “And they make such a difference.”

1. Toilet roll

This is self-explanatory, and always necessary. “One food bank is having to ration it to one roll per household,” says Hodson.

2. Sanitary towels and tampons

“We don’t have the data on how users of the food banks break down across gender lines,” says Hodson. “When someone comes to the food bank, they’ll often pick up for the whole household.” But she adds: “[Feminine hygiene products] are an awkward thing to say that you’re short of. If you’re at the point where you can’t afford food, chances are that you’re not going to be able to afford sanitary products either.”

“It’s really important, especially in terms of dignity, to be able to cope. We’ve heard some horrible reports from some of our food banks where women were [having to use newspaper and that sort of thing](#). Obviously, you have to be resourceful in these situations and people come up with all kinds of coping mechanisms, but we’d prefer they didn’t have to cope, and that they actually were able to have what everybody else has.”

3. Tin openers

“There are all kinds of people who don’t have these, especially women who’ve been relocated because of domestic abuse,” says Hodson.

And as food banks get a lot of tinned, non-perishable food, this is a handy thing to drop off at the collection point.

4. Nappies

Generally, food banks would prefer disposable nappies over cloth nappies. “The best thing people can do is call their local food bank and find out what they need,” says Hodson.

“We get parents with children of all ages. Some of the most stark cases are women who have literally just given birth and haven’t got anything, and are really struggling as well as being a new mum.”

5. Toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, deodorant)

You know how at Christmas, lots of people get packs of toiletries they don’t want, because it’s a bit of a standard present? Bring them along to your local food bank collection point. “If people don’t want them,” says Hodson, “it’d be amazing if they gave them to the food bank, because it’s the kind of thing that makes a massive difference.”

Shaving gels and foams are also welcome.

6. Baby food

Baby food is another item that many people don’t think to include on their list of donations to food banks, says Hodson. Well, now you know. *(taken from the Foodbank website)*

KNOWSLEY – BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2022

The Borough of Culture title is awarded annually on a rotational basis to one of the six local authorities that make up the Liverpool City region.

The purpose of the Borough of Culture award is to stimulate new cultural and creative opportunities; highlighting the unique character and distinctiveness of its people and places, and developing the skills and talents of its residents in order to create an exciting year of cultural events and activities that everyone can enjoy and take part in.

Each host borough will create its own programme of cultural and creative events, activities and opportunities, but all will include five key elements:

Children and young people: accessing, enjoying, learning through culture and creative engagement, developing skills and talents.

Positive outcomes: wellbeing, health, education, cohesion and future world of work.

Communities: increased opportunities for participation and involvement.

Distinctiveness of place: promoting the creative and culture on offer to local people and visitors.

Infrastructure and legacy: building future cultural and creative opportunities beyond the Borough of Culture year.

In 2019 Wirral hosted the award, followed by Sefton in 2020 and Halton in 2021. In 2022 the honour comes to Knowsley and the theme of Knowsley's year is based around 'stories' with the strapline:
'Everyone has a story to tell. It's time to tell ours.'

There will be a range of events taking place around Knowsley throughout the year, starting in January with a programme of public light spectaculars in each of Knowsley's areas, including Halewood. Details can be found on the website: <https://www.cultureknowsley.co.uk>.

Another event will be 'The Owl and the Pussycat' Sculpture Trail, celebrating the fact that Edward Lear actually wrote the poem, whilst living at Knowsley Hall, as well, of course, the much-anticipated opening of the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescot.

We are looking at how we link some of the events into our annual Halewood CultureFest. Watch this space!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Vestry Dates for March will be:

Thursdays 7.00 - 7.45pm - 17th March



At St Nicholas' Centre for wedding bookings only.

We are fully booked for Baptisms up to and including July. The next vestry at which people can book Baptisms from September onwards will be in June. Date to be announced.

There was a moment when Moses had the nerve to ask God what his name was. God was gracious enough to answer. And, although we've arbitrarily added vowels (an "a" and an "e"), the name he gave is recorded in the original Hebrew as YHWH.

Scholars and rabbis have noted that the letters YHWH represent breathing sounds; they're "aspirated consonants." When pronounced without the added vowels, they actually sound like breathing. YH (inhale); WH (exhale).



So a baby's first cry, its first breath, speaks the name of God. A deep sigh calls His name, or a groan or a gasp that is too heavy for mere words. I hear it loudest when I'm the quietest. When I can't utter anything else, is my cry calling out His name? In sadness, I breathe heavy sighs. In joy, my lungs feel almost like they will burst. In fear I hold my breath and have to be told to breathe slowly to help me calm down. When I'm about to do something hard, I take a deep breath to find my courage. When I think about it, breathing is giving him praise. Even in the hardest moments! Being alive means I speak His name constantly.

Even an atheist speaks His name, unaware that one's very breath gives constant acknowledgment to God. And when a person leaves this earth, God's name is the last breath that fills their lungs.

Can you grasp the beauty and intimacy of this thought? God chose to give himself a name that we can't help but speak every moment we're alive. All of us, always, everywhere. Waking, sleeping, breathing with the name of God on our lips.

"A man with a heart for all people"

Bishop Bev has led tributes to Bishop Paul as he retires as Bishop of Liverpool.

She said, "Bishop Paul is a man with a heart for all people. He has shown depths, breadths and heights of invitation, hospitality and the rich diversity of what it means to be human and what the world might look like if we embraced and honoured the dignity of all humankind. For Bishop Paul there is no one excluded from the table.



Personally, this has at times been challenging, it has been profoundly compelling and always inspiring. I would like to think my heart is kinder and my eye of faith that little clearer by my time serving with him and under his leadership.

From the moment Bishop Paul Bayes was announced as the next Bishop of Liverpool, we were clear that here is a bishop who would make a bigger difference. Being launched from the North Liverpool foodbank signalled where our new bishop's heart lay. This was built on throughout his Ministry in our diocese as he embraced our growth agenda urging us to get "Fit for Mission".

His advocacy for a range of groups, his encouragement around discipleship and the formation of a simple, memorable Rule of Life where we Pray, Read and Learn, Tell, Serve and Give, his challenge for us to Do Ten Things, Bring One Friend and build a bigger table shows the real heart he has for our diocese, for our communities and for the people who live, work, pray and serve here.

Bishop Paul appoints three new honorary Canons

As part of his preparation for retirement, Bishop Paul invited three people to fill the casual vacancies in our College of Canons.

They are: Neil Cook, Team Rector of Church Wigan; Juliet Stephenson, Director of the Good Funeral Company; and Debra Walker, Chair of the Diocesan Synod's House of Laity.

Bishop Paul said: "The College of Canons is a real source of wisdom and experience that enriches the Cathedral and the Diocese. Members of the College also play a significant part in the appointment of the new Diocesan Bishop, when they meet at the Queen's direction to elect the candidate whom the CNC has nominated.

So I wanted to make sure that there was a full house before moving on myself. Juliet, Debra and Neil will enrich the College and I'm delighted that they have accepted my invitation."

Debra, Neil and Juliet will be installed as honorary Canons by Bishop Bev and Dean Sue later in the year.

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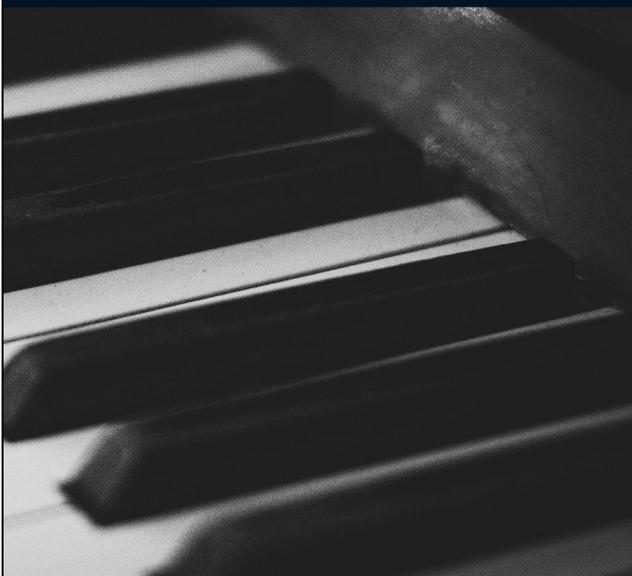
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Conversation in the womb – a parable of life after delivery



In a mother's womb were two babies.

One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?"

The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense" said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And, moreover, if there is life, then why has no one has ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us."

The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by Her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and you really listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

– a parable from *Your Sacred Self* by Dr Wayne Dyer

(thank you for sharing Alison)

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