

JUNE 2019

The Wave....

... Waveney Valley Ecumenical Partnership



Some thoughts from Rev'd Bill Mahood

I am very aware that at the moment we seem to be having to exercise our responsibility to vote on a variety of matters. Local Elections, Members of the European Parliament and it is certainly possible that soon there may be a General Election. Will there be another Referendum? And it can all be very confusing as we are faced with a wide variety of opinions and claims upon us.

What concerns me in all of this is that we seem to be a less united people and to be less civil to one another. There is a level of backbiting and bad manners which stems even from our MPs and Parliamentary system that is affecting the whole of our society and seems new to me. I look back on over 50 years of exercising the privilege of voting and being interested in politics. I remember MPs of different parties who could differ in many matters but nevertheless were friends and had respect for one another. Debates in Parliament were often heated but, on the whole, remained with the proper rules and procedures and so achieved more. Or am I just being nostalgic and a bit naïve.

At the same time as thinking these things I have been very aware of what has been the pattern of our church life and worship. We are still in the weeks of Easter with a sense of being one in our belief in the Risen Christ. In one of the Lectionary Readings we heard Jesus say of His followers, may they all be one, in order that the world may see and believe. We are travelling towards Pentecost when we will celebrate the Holy Spirit within and among us. In matters of faith oneness, civility and graciousness are important.

We have also been raising money for the work of Christian Aid. I had the privilege of leading a Commissioning Service for people involved in door-to-door collecting. In preparing for this I became very aware of the importance of hospitality in matters of faith. St Paul says very directly *Practice Hospitality* in Romans 12:13. The Gospels have lots of stories about Jesus sharing meals with others, both before and after his Resurrection. This is also something we share with other major faiths, an emphasis on hospitality. We are called to love our neighbours, to be hospitable with them, both those who are near and those who are far away. The Christian faith and its sense of hospitality should know no boundaries.

Could this be what we have to offer for the healing of our society? We are to love one another. We are to be hospitable with one another. We are to share of our richness. We are to reach out to each other and to look each other in the eye. Then we will see the image of God in each other. Then we will be one and live in peace.

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord.
(From a hymn by Fred Kaan)

Bill



Dates for your diary

Saturday 8th June – Emmanuel Church Bungay Orange Hall - 7pm Quiz with 2-course supper. Tickets £6.00 must be booked in advance. Phone Rod on 01986 893294 or Tim on 01986 894566. In support of Christian Aid.

Sunday 16th June – Denton Open Gardens - 10am-4pm - A treat for Father's Day, over a dozen gardens of all shapes and sizes. Lunch and Teas served in gardens. Tickets £4 under 16s free, on sale with maps at the village hall IP20.OBD. A fundraiser for the church in Denton.

Saturday 20th July – Pulham Market Methodist Church 3pm – Strawberry Tea in the Schoolroom. £6 per head

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Farewell

On Tuesday 14th May we said farewell to Dorothy Courtis with a social evening at Wortwell URC. Dorothy's new contact details are as follows:

24 Orkney View
Thurso
Caithness
Scotland
KW14 8DF

Tel: 07771 767086

We thank Dorothy for her fellowship and ministry in the Partnership over the last ten years and wish her God's blessing in her new home.

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And finally..... A reminder that Rev'd Jackie will be on Sabbatical from 1st June until the beginning of September. For some of this time she and/or Jon may be in the Manse so you may see them around. Same rules apply as for Rev'd David's Sabbatical – if you see them around please do say 'hello' etc but remember that this is her time away from the Partnership and do not discuss Partnership or other 'work' matters with her. Thank you.

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