

## **Commissioners meeting**

On Thursday Julia, Leonie, Marion, Philip and myself attended a public meeting with the church commissioners. This is a group of people some clergy, others not, whose job it is to make a decision about disputes arising from any restructuring of benefices/parishes.

You are aware that the new proposal is that Horton should join Endon and Bagnall but they have objected, hence the need for the meeting.

I can only describe it as like being in court (not that I've ever been in court), sitting in the witness stand, giving your statement and being questioned by KC whilst the jury listen to every word.

Horton and Longsdon had the most to say. I spoke for St Chad's and Julia and I both answered questions.

In summary it was, in my opinion, interesting, infuriating and most of all frustrating because the 'jury are out' and we have no idea when we will get an answer.

Whatever the answer and there are several possibilities, I don't think we will be seeing a new minister soon!!!!

*Kathryn*

I decided to find out more..... Not too much information about the Commissioners available but this is what I found:

Supporting the Church of England now and for the long term

## **Church Commissioners for England**

### **Parish reorganisation**

Reorganisation is carried out by making Schemes and Orders under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. Most changes will involve public consultation with an opportunity for parishioners and others to comment on the proposals.

#### **We aim:**

- To **assist** the reorganisation and property work of dioceses by dealing swiftly, accurately and efficiently with proposals submitted in respect of parish reorganisation, clergy housing, glebe and related matters
- To **provide accurate and appropriate advice** to dioceses and others
- To **keep up to date** Codes of Practice, guidance notes, forms and draft legal documents. Any changes we make to these documents are emailed to Diocesan staff and anyone else who has asked for them. Please contact us if you like to be included on our circulation list.

To deal with **objections** to reorganisation or property transactions by explaining when they are based on misunderstanding

To present full, fair and accurate information to allow the **Mission, Pastoral & Church Property Committee** to decide on proposals where there are objections.

## Social Evening at Stafford Arms, Bagnall on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> April

Did Jesus ever eat alone? If you find a paragraph in the Bible stating he did do let me know? As far as I can recall Jesus loved to eat with and share in the company of others, and...they say that those who eat and drink socially often feel more satisfied and happier with life.

Well, last evening not only brought familiar faces of family, friends and church family together but there were also new faces amongst us.

It was a fabulous turnout of around 30. The room was already buzzing with many conversations and outbursts of laughter as I walked in...I was a tad late, however, I was not to be the last... Oh no, Pippa did not fail us by making a grand entrance accompanied by Phoebe.



As each of us walked in we were greeted by a waiter and handed a place name card bearing our pre-ordered meals – how organised is that? What a lovely touch.

For the first time ever I joined Terry and Yvonne's company, where they proceeded to introduce Malcolm to Carrie and I as Mu's stand-in (for an exceptionally poorly Mu had to miss this lovely event due to her contracting COVID...yes...it's very much hanging around still, and the Spring boosters are once again being administered up and down the country).

Conversations flowed along with our drinks as the serving of our two course meals commenced. I was in such lovely company, really enjoying myself, so much so, that I completely forgot Sheila had appointed me chief photographer, it was only when I spotted Marian clicking away that I panicked...quickly grabbing my mobile I started to snap everything that moved, or, sat still, as Terry, Yvonne, Malcolm, Val and Brian were coated up, ready to leave the scene.

There were a few who were camera shy like lovely Kath and Freda, and one person who had a complete camera phobia as Val was successful in missing all my attempts to capture her face. Then there was Brian, who proceeded to jump in front of the camera scaring the life out of me with his monster pose accompanied by a series of growls. Oh, yes...I must remember to forward

that photograph to his beloved daughter Claire after writing this.

There was certainly enough chatter and laughter going on as I glanced round to the room to see everyone having a great evening. I really couldn't fault the table service, so polite are the staff, always smiling, as was I as I tucked into my absolutely delicious steak burger hm, mmm.

Well...I hope you'll agree what a lovely display of photographs we've provided between us, and, that you can all see what a wonderfully successful social event this has been.

Before I go, a huge thanks to the event organisers Julia and Grace for making this joyous occasion happen.

Thank you.

Leonie x







**Thank You,  
Leonie**

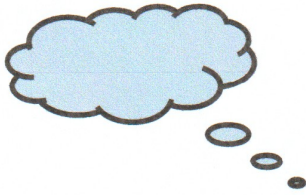




**St Chad's Social Evening:**  
Thank you, Marion.  
It looks like a good time was had by all!







# Thought For The Day



## You Take My Breath Away

I always find it incredible that often, music can speak to you in a way that other channels of communication don't. It can trigger memories, transport you to places in your past and act as a key, unlocking your inner-most thoughts and feelings.

Recently I have been loving listening to Eva Cassidy and the more I listen, the more her music touches me—she had such a soulful voice. She could sing a variety of genres—in fact, I'm sure she would have been able to sing the telephone book and make it sound wonderful! There are a number of tracks that fall into the "gospel" or "faith songs" category: Wade in the Water, People Get Ready and Coat of Many Colours amongst many others. One of my personal favourites is "You Take My Breath Away" and whilst this could be seen as being a pure love song, I feel that this too could be included in the "faith" category because of the deep and meaningful lyrics. If you would like to listen, follow the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PV8w3HSBwwY>

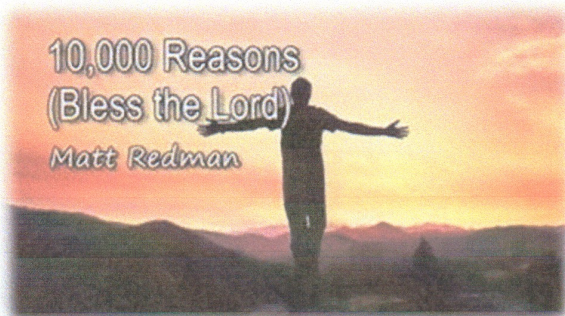
Last Sunday with Kath and Rev. Carrie (get well soon Mu!) we were thinking about the "Fruits of the Spirit". Simply put, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit we bear fruit in the form of moral actions, and the presence of these "fruits" is an indication that the Holy Spirit dwells within. The fruits are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.

*<sup>22</sup> But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> humility, and self-control. There is no law against such things as these. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have put to death their human nature with all its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> The Spirit has given us life; he must also control our lives. <sup>26</sup> We must not be proud or irritate one another or be jealous of one another.*

*Galatians 5:22-26*

I have to admit that over the years, I have found that there are songs and hymns that can wash over me and have little spiritual impact. I have also found that there are certain songs that really resonate, leaving a lasting impression deep within me..... A new addition to my list of "special" songs is "Ten Thousand Reasons" which we sang on Sunday in church. We have sung this song many times before but this time, I felt something different and I continued to play and re-play this song in my head for the duration of the day! It was a real "ear worm" - a memorable piece of music that occupied my mind long after it had been played. So much so, that on Monday, I used the wonders of technology to see if it was available on our Alexa device and amazingly, there it was! So now, I have had it on repeat for three days solid (and

counting) and every time I listen, far from wearing a bit thin from over-playing, I can honestly say, it literally takes my breath away! So, if you would like to listen and see what I mean, follow this link... the lyrics are divine.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE\\_IRIOE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRIOE)

Esther x



