

Voice from the Vicarage Thursday 19th May 2022

Dear All,

It was a delight this morning to welcome the mayor of the city of Moreland (soon to be known by another name!) to Christ Church. He was able to meet the team who put together and served today's Thursday lunch, and to meet some of the folk who partook of our fare.

He was very disappointed that because 'the beast' is not up and running on Thursdays he couldn't have one of our now famous lattes. He had to be content with a pot of tea. But it was *real* tea. Some consolation. We don't do teabags!

We had a good discussion about the parish and The Lamb and how locally there might be more joined-up thinking among those who are working for the good of this neighbourhood.

He was also able to meet Tristan and Jett, two lads from Brunswick Secondary College who have been on 'work experience' with us this week. They told him it's been fun to be here, which might just mean it hasn't been hard work, or it might actually mean they've enjoyed themselves. Tomorrow is their last day, and we shall quite miss them. They have acquitted themselves very well. Sadly one of them had his bike stolen from the bike racks on 260 on Wednesday, the chain cut with a battery operated grinder. It was only just outside our window, in full view, but we were immersed in how to steam milk at the time! The gracious way Jett dealt with the loss was impressive.



Mayor, Mark Riley, chats with Tristan, Jett, and team member Markos

Of course I don't need to remind you to vote on Saturday. One of the things I like about this country is that voting is compulsory. You can spoil your vote but you have to spoil it. In the UK where it is optional, politicians spend half their life trying to cajole people into the polling booth, and then are often as not blamed for the low turn out!

A bishop leaps for joy!

As I may have mentioned before, I remember so well hearing South African bishop, Desmond Tutu preaching to 700 teenagers at one of the Sussex schools with which I was heavily involved. He was an engaging and animated preacher, but none more so as when he was leaping up and down in the pulpit describing his first experience of being allowed to vote in an election. He had to wait until he was around 65 years old for the privilege.

It's not for a priest to tell people which way they should vote, but only that they should exercise their vote with a proper balance between self seeking and self giving; their own needs and the needs of others. Whatever the outcome, how fortunate we are to live in a country where we may exercise our vote without hindrance or intimidation.

And talking of government, in a couple of weeks time, the Commonwealth will give thanks for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. She is certainly the embodiment of 'keeping on keeping on'. Those of us who

are royal watchers (and I appreciate that not everyone is!) were delighted to see the Queen up and about during the last week. Let's hope she is well enough to attend the events that will



take place in London, not least the thanksgiving Service in St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 3rd. We will play our little part by putting the portrait that used to hang in the Bardin Centre in the Lamb and serve Corona-tion chicken toasties.....



But before all that happens....

We have the Philip Harris Memorial Lecture to look forward to on Sunday week, the 29th May. It will take place in the context of Sung Evensong for the Feast of the Visitation (the expectant Mary's visit to her expectant cousin Elizabeth) beginning at 6 pm. As already reported, Rowan Callick will deliver the address, and will speak on the subject:

'Discovering Jesus in our world : surprising encounters in the Asia-Pacific'

There will be light refreshments afterwards. Invite someone to come along!

A sermon summed up....



Last Sunday I preached about the commandment of Jesus to his disciples to love one another. It is, he says, the means by which those outside the Church will know we are his disciples. So the priority in

our life together is that we love another. For those who are seeking to be obedient to the Lord, it is not a choice... Thanks to young 'lamb' Isaac who presented me with a heart, which just about summed my sermon up! Of course he was too shy to say publicly how much he loves his parish priest!

I invited those who lack love in the Church:

- * to repent
- * to avoid making harsh judgements of others
- * to train and discipline their thinking and speaking
- * to ask the Lord to overwhelm any lack of love they may have for others with the gift of love that **he** has for them.

If we are not a community of love how can we contribute to making a civilisation of love in Brunswick?

And finally. I am taking some of this medicine myself.

I am training myself to love 'the beast' that is the coffee machine in 'the Lamb'... I find if I just talk to it... Mmm. Perhaps I need a holiday! Much love, +Lindsay