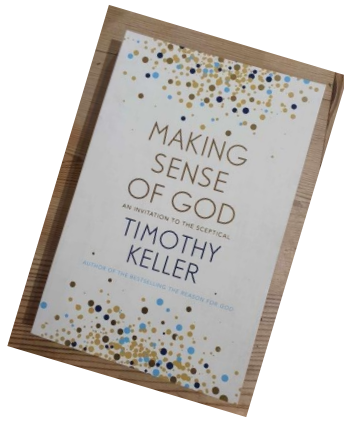


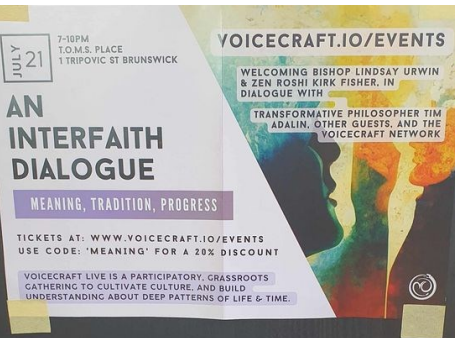
# Voice from the Vicarage July 20th 2023

Dear All,

It may be a little risky to recommend a book when you are only half way through it, but I'm going to do it anyway. It's by an American Presbyterian minister called Timothy Keller. After his death a couple of months ago, tributes to his personal integrity and his effectiveness as a Christian apologist came from across the Christian traditions and from all over the world. Some have acclaimed him as today's C.S. Lewis.



Anyway, the book is called **'Making Sense of God'** and is subtitled *'An Invitation to the Skeptical'*. It's clear and deep, but easy to read, and I think especially helpful for we Christians as we seek to 'give a reason for the hope that is in us' (1 Peter 3:15); as we seek to 'persuade' people about the Lord (2 Cor 5:11), and do so with reverence and respect.



Talking of that sort of thing, not too long after the café opened a young guy called Tim came in, and over the months we have had several interesting conversations. As a result he invited me to share in an interfaith dialogue taking place tomorrow night.

I'd be glad of a prayer or two!

## An adventure that continues!

I don't quite understand how it happens but every so often, whether you like it or not a memory pops up on your Facebook page. This photo happened to come up this very morning. It's from 6 years ago the post tells me, which must be about the time we bought the land at 260 Sydney Road, the start of a new adventure in the parish that has not finished yet! That adventure has taken a number of twists and turns that few of us could have imagined...



If they stick to their timings by this time next year the land will be a park funded by the local Council. Our café, however the usage of that space develops over time, is potentially a key part of its life and a place where secular and sacred meet. That was our original hope when **we** bought the land! God moves in mysterious ways....

*A sacred time was had on Sunday when Christians met on the land to pray for refugees and gathered in the café afterwards for a warming cup of soup..*



*Talking of soup*, as you might imagine on these rather chilly days, the adding of a cup - a - soup and toast to our café menu has been a bit of a hit. So far we've had ham hock, pumpkin, and leek and potato. I look forward to seeing what next week brings!

If you've got a bit of time to make a batch let me know. It doesn't have to be gallons of it. When it's sold it's sold, and all we need is a list of ingredients, the cost of which we will reimburse.

## We need some 'bussers'

Have you ever bussed? It's likely you have even if you didn't call it that. My sister Julia who is helping out in the café each week spent many years in America and she assures me that bussers bus when they clear and sets tables, do a bit of washing up, and generally helps to keep a clean and tidy environment, and preferably all with a smile. Efficient but not *officious*! I remember well a 'guest master' at a monastery I used to stay at in the UK who cleared your plate the minute you put your fork down. Helping yourself to seconds was to him among the most mortal of sins! Not us...as it says in our window. *'Were never in a hurry for you to leave...'*

We already have a couple of 'bussers' but we need more folk willing to commit to a few hours regularly, particularly on a Friday or a Saturday, though not necessarily every week. It could be once or twice a month. Let me know if you feel drawn to this servant ministry! A reliable rota would be excellent.

## Surprised by joy...

I've often written about the joy of 'surprises' in our pews, and last Sunday it was a real joy to welcome a family, until fairly recently so much a part of our life. For those who don't know, Roaa and Sami, they had a food stall, and a very good one, on the land at 260 when we owned it. They have now moved out west but I'm hoping we might see them again soon.



*A younger Symphony and Harmony continue to feature in 'The Lamb'*

*And finally..* after her pastoral placement by the sea, our Cara will be back next week. It will be so good to have her home and hear some stories!

Hope to see you Sunday. 8 or 10 or 6

Much love, + *Lindsay*