

Voice from the Vicarage 13th July 2023

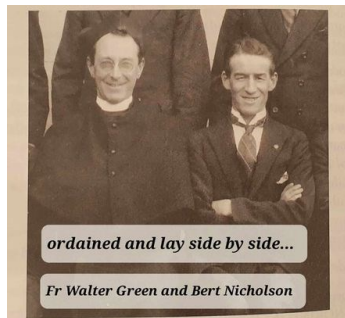
Dear All,

If you have not had much cause to use the side door that leads in and out of the Lady Chapel, you may not have noticed the board in the porch that lists the parish priests who have served here since 1855. It doesn't tell anything like the whole story of priestly ministry here of course. Just as now, there have been plenty of assistant clergy who have served and sustained Christ Church, some receiving a stipend but others for little or no financial reward. Their ministry has offered in addition to their other duties, just for love of Him.

A foolish Church...no thanks!

And while they, and all priests are indeed a gift from the Lord, and part of his divine plan, neither are we clergy the whole Christ Church story. It is said that a Roman Catholic bishop once asked the former Anglican and by then Catholic, Cardinal Newman something like, "Who are the laity?" to which Newman replied that the Church would indeed look foolish without them!

So it's a lovely thing that the board listing priests here rather unusually includes at the bottom a memorial to a layman called Bert Nicholson who worshipped and served this parish for over half a century until his death in 1979. His name reflects that he was a 'foundling', discovered as he was, a few hours after his birth, at the intersection of Albert and Nicholson Street. He was at various times verger, churchwarden and server. 'Rock solid, reliable and what is unusual these days, respectful of the priestly office' wrote one of the clergy who knew him, and another that he 'put God, his church and others before himself'. It seems to me Bert's name on the board represents a great truth about Christian faithfulness more generally, and that he represents many here who have been loyal to both their priests and the parish through its 'Highs and Lows', the title given to the parish history published in 2007.



ordained and lay side by side...
Fr Walter Green and Bert Nicholson

No parish should imagine, not least in these days, that the appointment of one full time parish priest after another happens as night follows day. It is a happy thing that in the midst of wondering *who* might indeed be the next full time parish priest here, you don't have to wonder if there *will* be one. That sureness is the fruit of a lot of people's prayer, work, love and loyalty. And their financial generosity.

So it's good that there is still a bit of room left on that board!

By the way, can I say thank you to those who have responded with so much love and warmheartedness following the announcement of my resignation last Sunday, and to the follow up letter I sent to everyone on our Voice mailing.

Meanwhile, we keep on!

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It's been lovely in recent days to have a bit of news from one or two our folk who are on their hols!



Roshan, Gaya and the boys in Toronto
Living the dream...



Nick and Tess in the UK. Since all we get is half of Tess I'm thinking she was in charge of this selfie. Visiting Yorkminster is clearly thirsty work. The former curate sits in between the happy couple!



Our Lamb café volunteer team has grown to include a number of young musos who enjoy the opportunity to play for the enjoyment of any in earshot. Last Sat a bit of double bass and sax...so good!



Today between writing paragraphs of this Voice I popped in to the Thursday lunch. Our co Ordinator Margaret Bright is away on a well deserved adventure for four weeks, but the team keeps on with its usual efficiency and warmth.



Stephen & Charlie are regulars on Thursdays. Great to chat to.

Nav can sometimes be found playing a tune on our church piano during the day..

And finally. In addition to our regular opportunities this **Sunday at 8, 10, and B & B @ 6** there is a short **Ecumenical vigil prayer for refugees** at 12 noon on the land at 260 Sydney Road followed by an informal bring and share lunch in the Lamb. **ALL ARE WELCOME** to stay on after our usual refreshments ! See the flyer attached!

Much love,

+ Lindsay