

# The View

6 JULY 2020

EDITION 11

## Waiting for our souls to catch up

**A reflection from Rt Revd Peter Hill**

There is an ancient story of a rich traveller who was determined to see the rest of the world as much and as fast as he could. Setting off on his journey to foreign lands he hired some common men to carry his baggage behind him as he journeyed. After several days of sweat and toil the baggage carriers stopped and sat down in the middle of the road. The rich man was furious and asked them what on earth they were doing. The men replied calmly and simply, "You are going too fast, we are waiting for our souls to catch us up."

We are at a danger point in our journey through this pandemic. As restrictions are lifted it would be easy for us to rush back to our previous lifestyles and ignore the common-sense hygiene and social distancing guidelines that have protected so many people's physical health thus far. As Christian leaders we are also at a danger point in our leadership. For some of us, who have been eager for lockdown to be over, it would be easiest now to rush out and slip back into doing what we have always done in the way that we have always done it, without reflecting on what we have learnt these last three months and how that should transform our leadership.



# The View

## Waiting for our souls to catch up (continued)

For others, the return may be feeling like an unwelcome burden and dread. How are we going to cope with a new world with even more pressing responsibilities and need? The reality for all of us will no doubt be a mixture of the two! Also, we need to recognise that though we have not been out and about much lately, leadership in lockdown has been energy sapping and tiring.

In recent days I have been pointed again and again to Matthew 11:28,29. *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

However lockdown has affected us we need to take a deep breath at this point, let go of our burdens, pray, and let our souls catch us up. In Jesus' day oxen were held together for ploughing by wooden yokes which needed to be a comfortable and easy fit. There is a lovely legend saying that above Jesus' Carpenter shop in Nazareth was a sign that said, 'Well fitting yokes made here!' In our leadership we are called to fit comfortably and easily with our Lord and master. That is the way, he says, we truly learn from him. The Greek for learn in this verse is *mathetes* from which we derive the term disciple. Most accurately it is translated apprentice.

So as our Christian leaderships emerge at this crucial time, we need to recall that we remain apprenticed to Jesus who does not want us to rush back into an ill-fitting and burdensome leadership styles.

How will you catch your breath and work that out?

+ Peter

## SUGGESTIONS:

*An ancient prayer to return to at this time of emergence ...*

O gracious and Holy Father,  
give us wisdom to discern you,  
diligence to seek you,  
patience to wait for you,  
eyes to behold you,  
a heart to meditate upon you, and  
a life to proclaim you.  
Through the power of the Spirit  
of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*St Benedict of Nursia*

# The View

## Good News Story – Emily Marlton, St Gabriel’s Pitsea

Emily Marlton, of St Gabriel’s Pitsea has been busy during lockdown, holding online auctions to raise money for the Children’s Society. Snooker fan Emily has raised £6,244 by auctioning off memorabilia kindly donated by players and by asking friends and family to donate via her [Just Giving page](#).

Emily explains how it all started “I was given a charity box from the church to put all my spare change in for the Children’s Society but I thought I’d go one step further...trying to raise some much needed cash myself” (quote taken from JustGiving site).

The Rector of Pitsea with Nevendon, Rev. Simon Law said, “Emily and her family (husband Simon and daughters Riley and Brooke) are a fantastic support and encouragement to the Church - financial, spiritual and physical – both before and during lockdown. They are committed and want to serve the Lord as best they can – especially if it involves helping children. When Covid-19 is over, we are going to create a fundraising committee and appoint Emily as its Chair!”

Hannah Ratcliffe, Relationship Manager for the Children’s Society in the East of England said “The Children’s Society provides support to children and young people who may be living in poverty, experiencing mental health issues, living in care or about to leave the care system or at risk of sexual or criminal exploitation. We have a number of services in Essex directly supporting children and young people and we are incredibly grateful to supporters like Emily for fundraising on our behalf, and thankful also to Reverend Simon and the team at St Gabriel’s. This incredible donation will allow us to continue our vital work.

[You can give to the Children’s Society via Emily’s campaign here.](#)



*Rev Simon Law with Emily’s cheque for the Children’s Society*

## News and Information

### Vacancy in See Update

#### Consultation closes with more than 1,000 responses received

Thank you to everyone who took part in and organised activity as part of the diocesan consultation to help identify the next Bishop of Chelmsford. There were more than 1,000 responses from individuals, churches and groups including more than 100 from young people and young people’s groups. The consultation will be used to help the Vacancy in See Committee prepare the Diocesan Statement of Needs. You can find out more about the process and next steps [here](#).

# The View

## Diocesan Representatives to the Crown Nominations Commission elected

On 30 June the Vacancy in See Committee elected the diocesan representatives to the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC). The CNC is the body that will interview candidates and make the final nomination to the Prime Minister of the person they believe God is calling to be the next Bishop of Chelmsford. The Prime Minister will then advise Her Majesty the Queen who will make the appointment. The six diocesan representatives are:

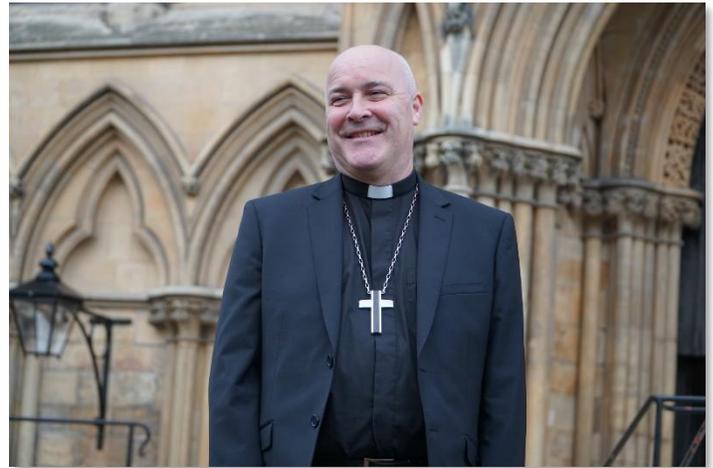
- The Venerable Elwin Cockett
- Canon Robert Hammond
- The Reverend Canon Paul Harcourt
- Canon Christine Horton
- Mr Evans Ofoajoku
- Miss Michelle Tackie

You can submit your views and suggest names of candidates to the CNC representatives by emailing [nextbishop@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:nextbishop@chelmsford.anglican.org) or by writing to The Crown Nominations Commission Representatives, Chelmsford Diocese, 53 New Street, Chelmsford, CMI IAT.

## **Bishop Stephen's Confirmation as Archbishop of York, Thursday 9 July, 11am**

Bishop Stephen will be confirmed as the Archbishop of York at an online service on Thursday 9 July at 11am.

The service will include music from York Minster Choir and Manor Church of England Academy School (York). Young people from across the north of England will read a letter written by the medieval religious scholar Alcuin of York. Bishop Stephen will offer his first address as Archbishop of York and prayers will be offered for the Archbishop, the Diocese of York and the Northern Province of the Church of England, as well as for the wider world in these difficult times.



You can watch the service by clicking on the link below, just before 11am on Thursday.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/aby98>