

Ministry and Commitment

Our Patronal festival weekend at the end of June sees a number of important moments for all of us at Bromley Parish Church. First of all, on the Saturday evening Alison will be Ordained Priest by Bishop Michael in the Cathedral. It will be a powerful, moment for her of course, but it's important for all of us.

The ministry of a Priest is essentially a ministry of offering. She or he leads the Church in offering itself to God in worship and ministry, and principally, of course, she will do this at the Eucharist. At every Eucharist the Church offers a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and makes a new commitment to God's service. This commitment is linked irrevocably to the sacrifice which Christ himself offered on the cross as it is centred on his body and blood which are given to us and for us. The Priest's offering in the Eucharist is therefore joined with Christ's. So is her life and ministry since what she does in His name outside the Eucharist must be consistent with what she does within it. It's a ministry of servanthood; of witness; of healing and blessing, and yes, sometimes of suffering too.

This is not only the task of the Priest. She represents in herself something to which the whole Church is called. When we speak of the Priesthood of all believers we are not saying that each individual Christian is a Priest but that the Church as whole is Priestly. Just as those Ordained Priest are called to a life of service and commitment so the Church as a whole is called to a similar life of service to God and commitment to his mission. The Church is the Body of Christ and so she is called to represent all that he did and does for his people, serving, witnessing, healing and blessing and suffering too.

Do pray for Alison, and the others to be Ordained, and pray too, for the Church as a whole and for our congregation in particular as we learn more of what it means to be a Priestly community.

On the subject of commitment to service in the Church, that weekend will also see the Confirmation of around a dozen members of our Congregation. This will be their moment of commitment to the service of Christ within his Priestly Church. They have been moving towards this moment for a long time and on 29 June at St. Andrew's they will have the opportunity to make their commitment and also to be affirmed by the Church. What goes on at Confirmation is about all of us, not just those on whom the Bishop lays his hands. It's a recollection of our own Confirmation and also a chance to support and affirm those who are taking their step now.

Please pray for Alan and Mary Boulden; Jermaine Coker; Rob Gaut and Sara Bartolozzi; Kate Gilheaney; Jon and Lisa Hutton; Debbie Phipps; Rebecca Sands and Janet Thomas.

Michael Camp

Do you have something that you would like to see in the Key. Please have a word with me and let me know your ideas.

Nic