

All Saints Community Newsletter

June 2016



Junior Church presenting their
work at Pentecost



Perusing the plant stall at
the May Fayre



**All Saints Flower
Festival will be on July
16th and 17th – All
Welcome**

The Admission to Holy Communion course will run for our younger members from Sunday 12th June for 5 weeks and they will receive communion for the first time on Sunday 17th July.

On Saturday 25th June, Jun will be ordained priest at Peterborough Cathedral. Please do come and support him by your presence. Jun has written about the differences between deacons, priests and bishops in his Curate's diary within this newsletter. He will preside for the first time on Sunday 26th and we will mark this with a presentation and celebration afterwards.

Many of you will know that whether in conversation, via my questionnaire or at PCC meetings I am keen to discern people's hopes for our church community, and to plan our future direction of travel together. I've been emphasising three areas of our life; prayer, discipleship and community involvement. I am keen for as many people as possible to have a say so please do complete the questionnaire if you haven't already done so. And please do put our **Parish Vision Day** into your diary. It will be held on Saturday 8th October from **10 am to 3.30 pm** in the Parish Hall. **It is for all of us; young and old, men and women, new worshippers and long standing members of the church.** Sometimes people say that they were not consulted about a particular change – so please come if at all possible and have a say in the future of the church that we love being a part of. Let's build on those qualities that we value - the church's welcome, worship and fellowship.

Miles Baker, who will preach on Sunday 11th September about this and will lead the day has written an article below about Growing the Church.

Fr Greg

Diary dates [What's On](#)

Admission to Holy Communion Course - This short course for our younger members will run on five Sundays for 30 minutes from approximately 11.30 am to 12 noon,

Sunday 12th June

Sunday 19th June

Sunday 26th June

Sunday 3rd July

Sunday 10th July

We will then admit to Holy Communion on Sunday 17th July at the 10 am service which will be a Sung Eucharist and Baptism

Other dates:

Tuesday 21st June 11.15 am Holy Communion at Park Vista

Saturday 25th June 4 pm Ordination of priests at Peterborough Cathedral

Tuesday 28th June 11.15 am Holy Communion at Park House

Saturday 16th July (10 am to 5 pm) to Sunday 17th July (12 noon to 4 pm) **Flower Festival and Vintage Teas**

Sunday 17th July 10 am Sung Eucharist and Holy Baptism with Admission to Communion

Tuesday 19th July 11.15 am Holy Communion at Park Vista

Tuesday 19th July 7.15 pm Fellowship meeting, 'D H Lawrence - his life and his poetry', Doreen Stevenson

Tuesday 26th July 11.15 am Holy Communion at Park House

Sunday 4th September, 10 am Sung Eucharist with guest preacher, Ed Walker (Hope into Action)

Tuesday 6th September, 7.15 pm Fellowship, Old Slides of Activities held in All Saints Church by Ernie Hall

Sunday 11th September, 10 am Sung Eucharist with guest preacher, Miles Baker

Saturday 1st October Harvest Festival Supper

Saturday 8th October Parish Vision Day (10 am to 3.30 pm)

Curate's Diary

“Why do you wear your scarf differently from the vicar?” I remember a young member of junior church asked me this question once. “Well, because I wear my stole in deacon’s way and the vicar wears his in priest’s way” I replied. “Are they different? What is deacon and what is priest?” He asked.

As some of you know the Order of Clergy is threefold: Deacons, Priests and Bishops. So why is it like this? Although there are lots of ongoing debates in theology about the meanings and roles of each of these titles, the message in this is straightforward. It indicates the mission of the Church, the reason why the Church exists in this world.

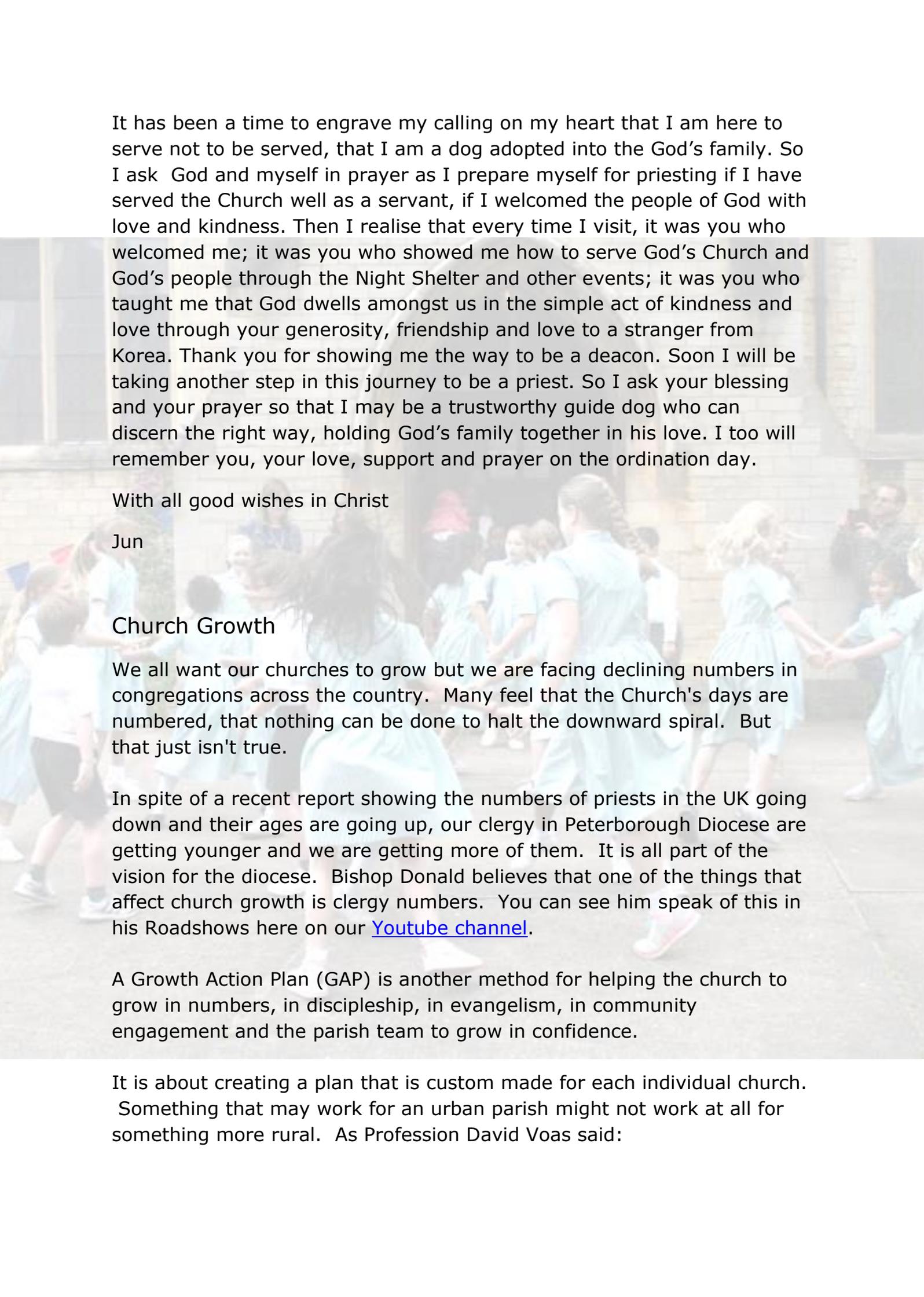
The Bible teaches us clearly that although there are many of those who claim to be a real shepherd, there is only one shepherd to lead us; Christ. He is the only shepherd and we all belong to his flock. Or if I may use more modern and inclusive analogy, Jesus Christ is the one and only head of the family and we all are his children and he wants us to join the household economy and do our bit.

Clergy are those who are called to be a family dog - or a sheepdog in traditional words - in this household of God. (There is a reason why we wear what is called a 'dog collar') There are three dogs in this household. The first one's name is Deacon. He or she is a loyal sledge dog, carrying and bringing things necessary and serving in housework. The second one's name is Priest. He or she is a trustworthy guide dog, showing the ways and holding the family together within a right pathway. The third one's name is Bishop. He or she is a strong guard dog, protecting the family from the dangers of the world day and night.

Serving the people, showing the way to the people while holding them together and protecting them is what the Church is called to do in this world. The Order of Clergy symbolises and embodies this mission of the Church in the real world.

We wouldn't expect these three dogs or roles to be completely separated from each other. They can do their job well when they work closely together and know clearly about other's jobs. So they all have to start as Deacon. They begin from learning how to serve, how to take basic but essential tasks for the household. And they are to never forget that once a deacon, forever a deacon. This is a reminder for all clergy that they are here to serve not to be served. This is true to priests or bishops as they never stop being a deacon.

In the Church of England, deacons serve one year before being ordained as a priest. In the Anglican Church of Korea, deacons are required to serve two years. I have done a bit longer than others as I have moved from Seoul to Peterborough. I have spent two years in the Church and one year outside the Church as a deacon. I am so grateful and glad that God allowed me to have this three year opportunity to serve as a deacon.

A group of children in light blue uniforms are holding hands in a circle on a paved area. The children are of various ages and are looking towards the center of the circle. The background is slightly blurred, showing a building with a sign that says 'SCHOOL'.

It has been a time to engrave my calling on my heart that I am here to serve not to be served, that I am a dog adopted into the God's family. So I ask God and myself in prayer as I prepare myself for priesting if I have served the Church well as a servant, if I welcomed the people of God with love and kindness. Then I realise that every time I visit, it was you who welcomed me; it was you who showed me how to serve God's Church and God's people through the Night Shelter and other events; it was you who taught me that God dwells amongst us in the simple act of kindness and love through your generosity, friendship and love to a stranger from Korea. Thank you for showing me the way to be a deacon. Soon I will be taking another step in this journey to be a priest. So I ask your blessing and your prayer so that I may be a trustworthy guide dog who can discern the right way, holding God's family together in his love. I too will remember you, your love, support and prayer on the ordination day.

With all good wishes in Christ

Jun

Church Growth

We all want our churches to grow but we are facing declining numbers in congregations across the country. Many feel that the Church's days are numbered, that nothing can be done to halt the downward spiral. But that just isn't true.

In spite of a recent report showing the numbers of priests in the UK going down and their ages are going up, our clergy in Peterborough Diocese are getting younger and we are getting more of them. It is all part of the vision for the diocese. Bishop Donald believes that one of the things that affect church growth is clergy numbers. You can see him speak of this in his Roadshows here on our [Youtube channel](#).

A Growth Action Plan (GAP) is another method for helping the church to grow in numbers, in discipleship, in evangelism, in community engagement and the parish team to grow in confidence.

It is about creating a plan that is custom made for each individual church. Something that may work for an urban parish might not work at all for something more rural. As Profession David Voas said:

"There is no single recipe for growth; there are no simple solutions to decline. The road to growth depends on the context, and what works in one place may not work in another. What seems crucial is that congregations are constantly engaged in reflection; churches cannot soar on autopilot. Growth is a product of good leadership (lay and ordained) working with a willing set of churchgoers in a favourable environment."

Anecdote to Evidence, a report from the [Church Growth Research programme](#) is what Revd Canon Miles Baker, the Diocese Director for Mission, uses as the foundation for the activities and group work used to develop a plan to help each church grow.

Miles explained: "A great Growth Action Plan usually comes from a good vision day."

The vision day asks three questions:

1. Where are we?
2. Where is God calling us to be?
3. How will we get there?

Then with a creative and engaging process, the PCC members and leadership group will work out what is needed in order to be where God is calling the church to be.

This leads to the creation of a written Growth Action Plan. This includes a One Year Plan with measurable goals to achieve a Five Year Vision statement. There is even a plan for a review date to look at the progress.

Miles said: "Having a plan will give a clear sense of missional direction, which is a powerful tool for church growth."

"The churches which are growing are the churches which are intentionally wanting to grow. Research shows that of those who report a clear sense of mission and purpose have grown 64% in numbers and discipleship. For those that stated that they didn't have a sense of clear mission and purpose, 26% had grown and 52% had declined." (Figures from [Anecdote to Evidence](#)).

Bishop Donald said: "We believe in church growth. All our senior staff saw growth in their earlier parish ministries, and it is our expectation for

every healthy church. Rather than a detailed diocesan strategy we are working in terms of a vision for each parish or benefice to develop and own a Growth Action Plan”.

For more information email [Miles Baker](mailto:miles.baker@diocese.org).

Park Streets Ahead Residents Association invites neighbourly people of all ages who live locally - and their friends - to

Tea & Cake & Music

at All Saints Church Hall, Park Road

2-4pm on 2nd Sundays monthly

Drama workshop for age 8+...Activity table for toddlers...Welcome for everyone!

Helpers, musicians and cake donations are very much appreciated . *If you need help getting to the church hall, please ring Sue on 349907 or Beki on 764130 To book your child into Drama workshop, email parkstreetsaheadra@gmail.com and bring £5*

Peterborough Winter Night Shelter



The Winter Night Shelter was a great success. Each host church found the experience to be positive and strong friendships were built up within churches, between churches, in the community and with the City Council – who described the project as ‘brilliant’ and ‘amazing’.

At its last meeting the PCC decided unanimously to continue the involvement of All Saints with the Night Shelter project. Therefore, in the autumn we will be seeking additional volunteers and providing training.

Thank you again to all who supported the work of the shelter in so many different ways.

Rt Revd John Holbrook, Bishop of Brixworth writes

Shaped by God

As I write I'm looking forward to returning full-time to Peterborough diocese after nine months of serving as acting diocesan Bishop of Leicester. This secondment has only been possible because of the quality and generosity of my colleagues who have been working extra to cover my absence. It's good to have an opportunity to say a heartfelt "Thank You". In particular, this experience has deepened my appreciation of Bishop Donald's leadership of our diocese.



One of the highlights of my Leicester time (apart from the success of Leicester City who are almost as good as Northampton Town!) was being asked to consecrate St Guthlac's Church on Holbrook Road! St Guthlac was a Saxon Christian who founded a religious community (Crowland Abbey) just north of Peterborough about 1300 years ago.

The consecration of a Church and the launching of a new parish are very rare and special events. It was a great privilege to be involved and they were amused at having found a Bishop Holbrook* to perform the ceremony. In marking the Church entrance with the Greek letters Alpha and Omega (signs of Jesus the beginning and the end) I was very conscious of sharing in an exciting new beginning for that congregation which has so many great plans and ideas.

For the past year I have lived and worked with the Leicester diocesan vision called "Shaped by God". It has helped St Guthlac's to clarify their mission and might help us to think about our calling;

"Shaped by God in our lives and communities we seek the growth of His kingdom in:

- The depth of discipleship
- The number of disciples of Jesus
- Loving service of the world.

With my prayers and best wishes, +John