

THE COMMONER

ST BARNABAS CLAPHAM COMMON

15 JULY 2021 ISSUE #37

THE LAITY

HOW TO RECOGNISE THEM



CartoonChurch.com

SING ALONG WITH THE COMMON PEOPLE

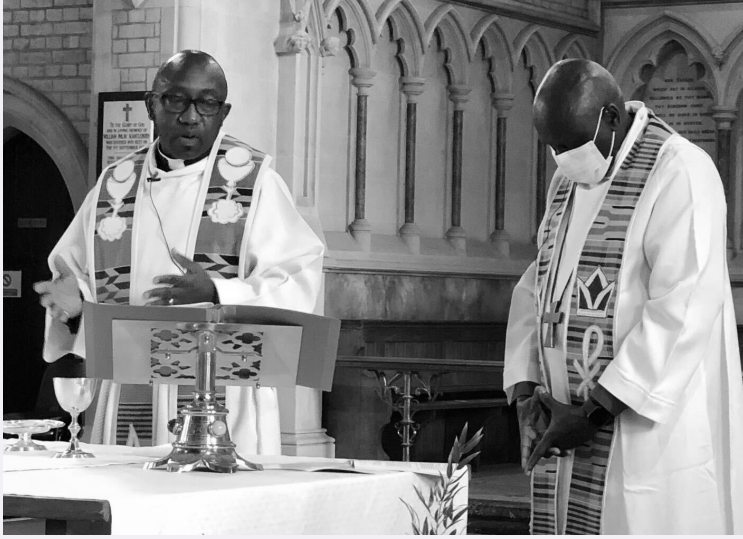
How do you read a newspaper? Front to back or back to front? Me, I scan the headlines on the front page before turning it over and devoting some serious attention to the sport. When I recently stayed with someone who read the business section first, I tell you, it almost blew my mind!

What about The Commoner? What do you do first: the cartoon on the front or the church news on the back? OK, so there are only two sides (not really a newspaper), and most people receive it electronically (so whilst it might be news its not actually paper) but you take the point, I'm sure.

Not that it matters hugely (apart from generating this introduction to Issue #37); whichever way round you read it this week, I am sure you will appreciate the editorial decision to go with complementary features on either side.

On page 2, Ian tells us a bit more about his recent ordination on, whilst on page 1, we've gone with a cartoon called The Laity. And at the risk of telling you what you already know, laity comes from the Greek word 'laos' meaning common (as in ordinary) people. Whilst church usage often suggests that laity means 'all those who are not clergy', I think it is more helpful to define it as everyone who is part of church, including the clergy, who are a subset of it. Sure, the clergy are the professionals in terms of the institution but that doesn't mean others are any the less gifted, important or called. Some are clergy, most aren't, all are laity who belong to the people of God. Ian's ordination gives us much to enjoy, of course. But don't forget that we clergy are still the 'laos', like you; our job is to lead worship and invite you to sing along with common people like us [RT].

IAN'S ORDINATION - GOD'S TIME-KEEPING



This picture shows Ian presiding at the Eucharist for the first time after being ordained on Saturday 3rd July. If you were around, you may have heard him share his experience but if not, here it is, as he reflects on the series of unforeseen events which occurred just a few hours before the service.

"...get me to the church...for Gawd's sake, get me to the church on time!"

"Get me to the Church on Time" Some of you might remember this song from the 1956 musical 'My Fair Lady'.

Well, it wasn't just Dr. Doolittle who wanted to get to Church on time and not be late for his wedding...I was one of four Ordinands who also desperately wanted to get to Church on time after we discovered that the coach that was meant to pick us from our retreat in Wychcroft House in Belchingly, to take us to Kingston upon Thames, for our ordination, was not going to come for us due to some complications in the booking.

We had no time to get to the bottom of it as it was getting close to 9.45am and we were supposed to have left at 8.30am Very quickly alternative arrangements were made and when our taxi arrived, it was very tempting to say to the driver, step on the gas... get us to Kingston on time.

Was God trying to develop our character or was this another assignment that we had to go through, surely not on the day we were supposed to be ordained. I don't really know the answer to those questions but sometimes God does bring us to situations where we can do nothing but pray and rely on Him. We consoled ourselves with the fact that the worst that could happen is that the service will be delayed as it couldn't start without us.

Thankfully we got to the Church, and everyone did their best to help us settle down and when the service started, as I walked into the Church, you could hardly tell we had been through a transport ordeal. All of that was now behind us, we were now in Church, looking with longing to what was ahead of us and that was more than sufficient to banish our earlier anxieties.

I am reminded that the Psalmist David says, "But I trust in you, Lord, I say, you are my God, my times are in your hands..." Psalm 31: 14, 15).

It is just possible that right up to our ordination, God was still teaching and moulding us to do His work and yes, His methods are sometimes beyond comprehension.

Of this though, we can be assured that, God knows our needs and He is always in control even when circumstances around and within us suggest differently. As we say in our mid-week prayers, "God watches over us" and He sure knows how to get us where we need to be and in His time.

Rev Ian Luke-Macauley

WORSHIP IN AUGUST

As this be our last issue before we have a break for the summer, here is a round up of what our **Sunday worship** will look like in August:

- Sunday 01 August: Holy Communion at 11am
- Sunday 08 August: Morning Worship & Baptism, 11am
- Sunday 15 August: Holy Communion at 11am
- Sunday 22 August: Morning Worship at 11am
- Sunday 29 August: Holy Communion at 11am

There will be a children's table with activity sheets each week.

Daily Prayers will take a break during August, resuming after the bank holiday on Tuesday 31 August at 12.00pm.

The next **Family Service** will be on Sunday 05 September.

The next **Taize Communion** service will be on Wednesday 08 September.

COVID RESTRICTIONS

Thank you for giving us your views on how you would like to see the end of restrictions being implemented in St Barnabas. Taking these into account, together with the latest guidance, we have decided on a measured approach as follows:

- Singing will be allowed from Sunday 25 July
- Masks should still be worn at all times
- We will maintain some social distancing
- We will serve refreshments, outdoors whenever possible, and if not, in church from Sunday 25 July

In order to minimise the use of disposable cups, we encourage you to bring your own mug/cup for refreshments.

We will review our plans in September. Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have concerns. Thank you.



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CHURCH FOR ALL - INCLUDING YOU

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