



Revd David O'Brien

June 2019

June is the month of leaving and receiving

Jesus said, **"But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I go away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you"**.

(John 16. 7)

How confusing it must have seemed to Jesus' disciples when he told them he was going away. We now know and Jesus knew he was speaking of his impending Passion, Crucifixion and Ascension following the Resurrection. But they had no idea what Jesus really meant at that time.

Imagine spending 3 years with a holy man who performs miracles; turning water into wine, raising Lazarus from the dead, walking on water, healing lepers, commanding demons to leave, feeding 5,000+ and listening to his wonderful teaching and wisdom. This is a man whom they believed was the Messiah. The very idea of Jesus going away must have sounded like nonsense. Who knows? perhaps they thought it was yet another parable. The promise of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit ***(John 1.33)*** was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. We are now in the season of Pentecost and anticipating Trinity and yet the Holy Spirit is available every day.

It is this joy and hope of the Holy Spirit with us and within us, the promise for every Christian, which is the enduring life of the Church. It is His strength which enables us to pray, serve, and to hear the call of the Father.

It is my personal testimony of being filled with the Holy Spirit which transformed my life and is the only rationale for why I am a minister of the Gospel. I personally know that the preaching, counselling, serving and praying is all flat and ineffective save for the Holy Spirit. This also means He is the one who calls and obedience to Him is where the anointing is (*Acts 13.1-2*). He desires to be the Sovereign of our hearts and following His call is where we find life. This means trusting He knows best because He knows what He is doing and why. Our part is to pray for discernment and then follow. This is why after nearly 9 years at Oxon I sensed His call to return to Blackpool. It is a decision not taken lightly because it effects other people's lives as well. Alison has seen Ashar Bringing Hope grow and move into premises at Shrewsbury URC. Ashar will continue here in Shropshire but will now expand into Lancashire with the move to Blackpool. Josh is planning life at college following his GCSE's.

As a church we were planning building improvements. These plans will still go ahead as there is a will and desire for this among the church members.

We leave with a sense of gratitude for all that God has done in and at Oxon knowing His work is not finished.

With this in mind; adventure lies ahead for you at Oxon, and for us in Blackpool. We leave knowing we will stay friends. You are welcome to visit Blackpool anytime, just don't all come at once!

June is the month of leaving and receiving. We leave as a family praying you will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

I leave as vicar on 16th June knowing Oxon Church is in the safe hands of God.

Be Blessed – Revd David.



St Thomas' Blackpool

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Alyson Bradney

Churchwardens' News



Neil Harris

First of all: In this edition of Oracle we would like to take this opportunity to wish David, Alison and Josh every happiness and success as they move to a new life in Blackpool. We will miss you all and Sunday services will never be the same. As Churchwardens we have appreciated David's help and advice, and we pray that your replacement will match your commitment to the Parish at Oxon.

We still have seats available on the coach to Blackpool for David's inauguration on **Monday 15th July, costing £20.00 p.p.** The coach leaves the Church at **2.00 p.m.** and leaving Blackpool at **10.00p.m.** If you would like to support David at Blackpool, please see Neil to book a seat.

New Vicar: We await the applications to flood in and once a short list has been made, it is hoped interviews will take place at the end of July to appoint a new vicar, if one is found suitable.

We have in place priests to cover Sunday communion services at **9.30** and the **new Bishop of Shrewsbury Sarah Bullock will be with us on the 4th August**, and the Archdeacon will also help cover some of the services. So, it will be worship as usual at Christ Church

Tuesday Work Parties: We are again looking for helpers on a Tuesday evening from **7.00 p.m.** to keep the churchyard tidy and help in the Church. We would like someone or persons to spruce up our brasses again. This can be done on a Tuesday evening, just let Neil or Alyson know when and we will have everything ready.

Christian Aid: A Big, Big Thank You! to our collectors this year. We managed to raise **£1048.70**, which is only slightly down on last year.

We look forward to seeing you all every week and thank you for your support in helping us run the Church. Love and Best Wishes:

Alyson Bradney (850429) and *Neil Harris* (357174)

Quarterly News from
The Treasurer
Dave Thomas



- I. In 2018, we paid our Parish Share (the money we are required to pay to Lichfield Diocese) of **£49,373**. For 2019 our Parish Share has again been increased, this time by **5%** (twice the rate of inflation). It now stands at **£51,841**. It is not going to be easy to achieve this amount.
- II. Unfortunately, our weekly offerings are down from last year at an average of **£755** compared with **£845**.
- III. 100 Club membership is a little down on last year,
- IV. Our cakes and produce fund is already generating income.
- V. We are awaiting our second and third instalments from HMRC, which should add approximately **£4,000** to our general fund.
- VI. During July the first of our additional payments to LDBF of **£9,120.50** will be due. The PCC will review the payment of this in July, it will be tight!
- VII. We have received a generous legacy to be spent on items for the Church.
- VIII. The position regarding our main funds is as follows:

General - £5,482

Fabric - £5,537

Audio - £2,559

Cakes & Produce - £343

New AV Technology - £1,600

Building Development - £14,728

Ouseley Music Trust - £2,598

Organ - £2,369

Dave Thomas (Treasurer)