



# Chaplain's Blog



March 2018

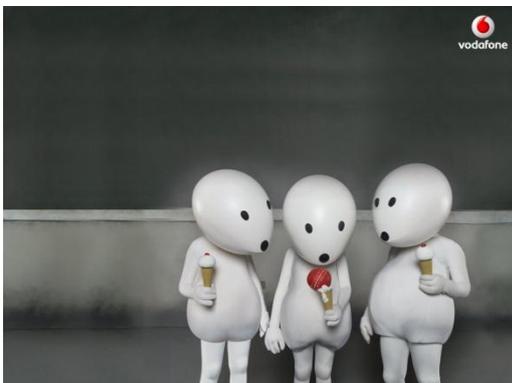


*Rev Hilary Spong's meditative corner in the cathedral on vocations day.*

## A Heart-warming story

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-12043294?SThisFB>

Rev Jo Mulliner preached the Lent 2 Sunday sermon at St Andrews and read this true story as part of it. I thought it well worth sharing so please do click and read!



*Well it was one of those sermons you have to share.*



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## Lent

The Friday before February half term (yes I am still stuck in an academic calendar!) is the anniversary of my last day in teaching in 2009. I felt ill at a training event, left, walked home and went off sick with pneumonia and never went back. It seems every year since then I end up with a cold at half term.... even when they shift half term by a week.

The skies have been, for the most part, grey and the weather damp, dreary and depressing. So I battled with my cold / virus finding it hard to be motivated enough to say the office and snacked through enough calories to fuel a small power station by way of comfort, convincing myself that I deserved a rest, that I did not have to do everything or indeed attend every meeting or stick to my prayer pattern. I wallowed.

Then I had to preach on the Gospel where Peter is sharply rebuked by Jesus- 'get thee behind me Satan!' I could almost hear a stammering reply from Peter, '.....but Lord, I was only concerned for you, you deserve more, you deserve better.....!' You can probably guess what went through my mind about wallowing in a sea of germs!

## Then came the snow...



The snow brightened the mood and the excitement of our grandchildren could not fail to lift spirits!

Granny had been wishing for snow just for the grandchildren of course!

## Contemplation

This dropped into my inbox and really struck a chord.... ctrl + click will take you to the post.

[Richard Rohr on blessed are those who hunger for justice...](#)

## Vocations day

So here I am in the cathedral reflecting on calling. The first thing that strikes me is that being 66 has its advantages in practically restricting what one is able to do; the knock on being the ability to focus on that one can do!

The second thought being that I need coffee!

I did not get the coffee, being stopped by an enthusiastic smile of someone called to explore Reader ministry - aged 71, a man with a passion for bringing young people into church. I wish David well in the discernment process for his vocation in whatever it is and will be praying for him.

At the end of the day I was delighted that I had only been challenged to do what I already do better!



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There was a programme of speakers with opportunities for people to explore in small groups, but it was interesting how at the side around the Reader table certainly there was a constant buzz of intense conversation and questions! How many essays? How much study? Why are you a Reader? I don't fully understand the structure, can you explain it? Does it matter which part of the church I come from? And so on.

*Thank you to Sally, Sarah & Carrie, Readers who helped us with setting up our stand!*

The good news is that it is highly likely we will have some new Readers in Training in September- hooray!



Images from Vocations Day





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## Photographs for the website

The diocesan website is being updated and redesigned. If you have, or can have taken, any pictures of you carrying out aspects of Reader Ministry please would you email them to Carrie (with a copy to me.)

They might include:

- Leading worship (formal and informal)
- Preaching
- Lent course / Bible study.
- School assembly (no children's faces)
- Funeral ministry
- Open the book
- Talking to people at food bank etc ( no faces of recipients... unless permission to publish)

## Reader News

Linda Dobson moving away from the diocese and she will be very much missed by her parish and by Cornwall.

Roz Williams is taking a sabbatical from Reader ministry with a new challenge in helping to grow the New Wave church in Perranporth. I am sure the experience will add to her range of skills for when she returns.

## In the next blog:

**The CRC consultation.** Carrie, Jonathon and our CRC representative, Denise will be going up to Taunton on Thursday and hopefully we will get a full report on the deliberations. I was going along with Rev Canon Jane Kneebone but we will now be at the **Old Cathedral School** for the **official opening**. We have something of a vested interest in the building because much of the training happens there!

So the tale of the old cathedral school lifts and security and my impressions of meeting The Duke of Cornwall and the surrounding fun to follow. I hope to get a photograph or two!

**End Thought on Vocation** from my patient proof reader who wonders whether there really *is* such a thing as a 'calling'. Obedience to God's will, yes. But I'm not so sure that everyone has a vocation. Some of us maybe just need to follow Micah 6:8...

What do you think?