



# Chaplain's Blog October 2017

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**The next quiet day** is November 30<sup>th</sup>, which is a Thursday at Epiphany house.

We have invested in Colin Brown, a fantastic facilitator. He is a professional artist and is a Church Army member. Numbers will be strictly limited so early booking is advisable because the Advent Quiet Day is usually very popular!

Of his session Colin writes:

*Dear Jim  
I am looking forward to the Quiet day in late November.*

*Title: 'Art, a window on the divine'*

*sub-title: **Exploring Connections Between Art and Faith** led by Colin Brown, artist and Church Army evangelist.*

*My main is to give folk some thoughts to pray with, and lots of space to do that in. Some time also to reflect on what they have received.*

*Peace & Good,*

*Colin*

## So far the following people have booked:

Me!  
David Watson  
David Watters  
Wendy Barritt  
Ann Kerridge  
Marcus Jones  
Sheila Andrews

## Reader's Day 2018

I went up to Bodmin to St Petroc's Church with Carrie (secretary to readers), William (Reader in the Bodmin area) Garth (leading a meditative worship) Helen (Reader from the Sharp end) and Canon Paul (deputy warden to Readers).

The next day will be held in the church rather than the Shire Centre who are now too expensive but we are hoping that the move will be seen as positive rather than negative, especially as the focus will be on aspects of prayer. Much more of that in future communications once the speakers are in place and timings have been agreed.

There will also be an opportunity to find out more about spiritual direction and its benefits in helping your own prayer-life as well as a chance to consider whether helping other people in prayer might be part of your vocation.

## Coffee and Conversation



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Unlike the E.W. readers, North Carnmarth readers have struggled to get together so some of us are trying something new. Every second Monday morning of each month we are going to meet at the Penventon hotel for conversation for anyone who can make it.

The next one just happens to be a third Monday (because of the now postponed Bishop's CMED day) on the 16<sup>th</sup> October so if anyone else fancies a drive to Redruth and an excellent cup of coffee served in congenial surroundings while we cogitate and pontificate you are most welcome from about 10am. Sometimes the discussion goes on long enough to need a beer!

## **CRC consultation and my visit to St Minver**

It was great to visit the East Wivelshire Deanery in St Minver. Thank you David, Lesley, Margaret, Susan, Roger and Nigel. The journey, underlined for me the meandering geography of the county! St Minver seemed miles from anywhere..... presumably St Minver folks think otherwise!

The discussion was as wide ranging as the tasks that those round the table undertook in their church lives. I say that a Reader is what I am and being a Licensed Lay Minister is what I do, however whatever I am doing I am still a Reader, whether it is chairing the school governors, preaching or leading safeguarding training. I know I don't have to be a Reader to do much of that, (even preaching if one is to believe the stories about what Worship Leaders are doing) but it does change my approach to things.

So the St Minver group were preaching and teaching, being church wardens, running 'open-the-book', the food bank and much more. Many of those things one does not need to be a Reader, nevertheless Readers are key in doing them.

Defining the bounds of Reader ministry is a tricky business! The line that Readers are the lay theologians of the parish is a good one but really doesn't take into account the scope of the ministry.

A recurring theme though is the lack of something to identify us as Readers in everyday life when not wearing our scarves! David said that somebody had said they liked his St Andrews badge so the current reader badge is pretty but not that useful.

Perhaps we should have a diocesan badge that we can wear - with Reader, Licensed Lay Minister, Diocese of Truro emblazoned on it. That would serve for identity when visiting as well as being recognisable when running the food-bank etc. Thoughts please.....

## **Just a thought:**

If .....

we Learn . . .

**10% of what we read**

**20% of what we hear**

**30% of what we see**

**50% of what we see and hear**

**70% of what we discuss**

**80% of what we experience**

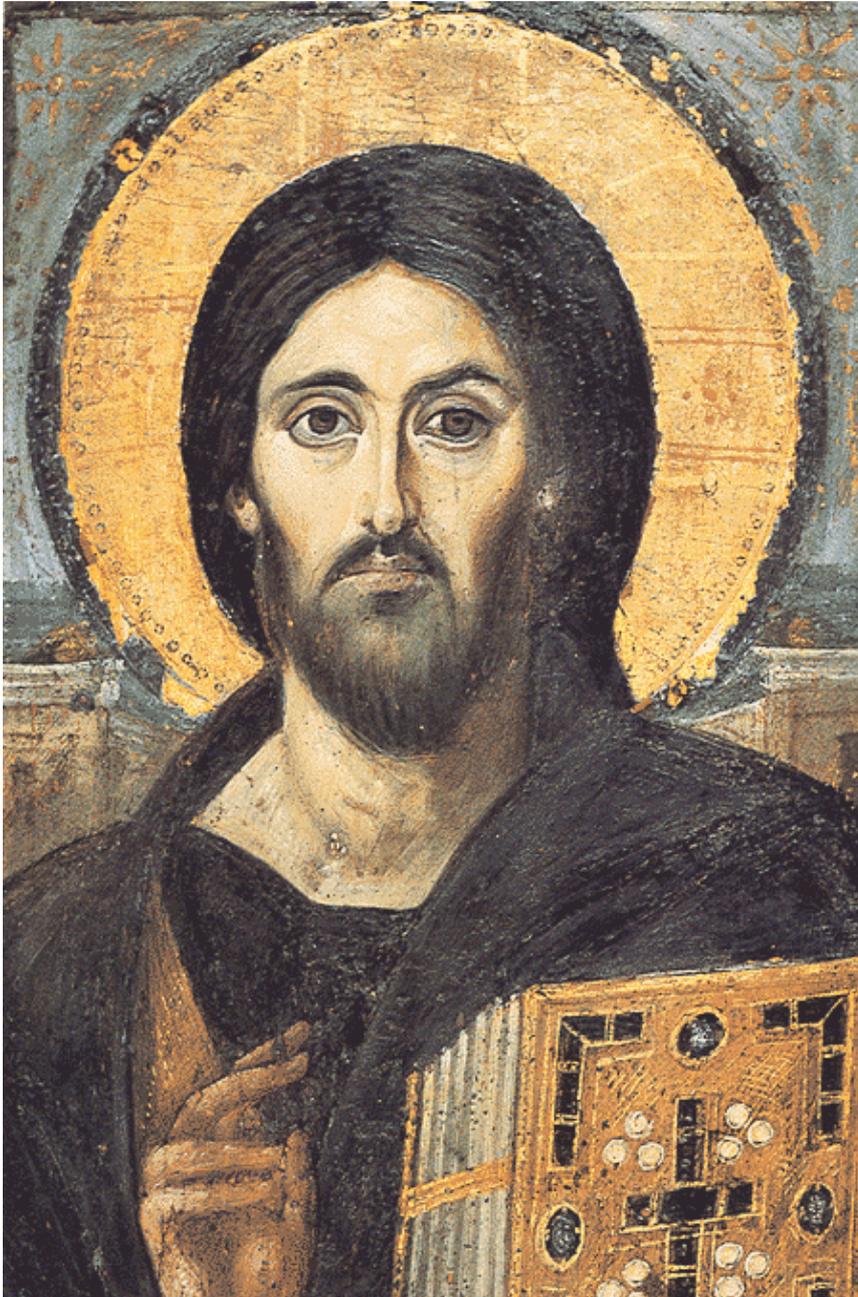
**95% of what we teach others."**

As Readers who preach, how worrying is it that folks will only remember 20%?  
And.... does that indicate we are preaching mostly to ourselves?



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[Faces of Jesus](#) (Link to where I found the image and the prayer!)



## Prayer

Jesus, invincible power  
Jesus, unending mercy  
Jesus, radiant beauty  
Jesus, unspeakable love  
Jesus, Son of the living God  
Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner  
Jesus, hear me, for I was conceived in iniquity  
Jesus, cleanse me, for I was born in sin  
Jesus, teach me, for I have been a fool  
Jesus, enlighten me, for I have been in darkness  
Jesus, purify me, for I am defiled  
Jesus, restore me, the prodigal  
Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me.

As an aging group there are a number of Readers going through tough health problems or looking after family with those issues. I note that the CRC document mentions the phrase, 'ministry of the third age!'

My prayers are at least daily for all those I know about please do let me know if there is someone who should be added! Please do update Joy Gunter [joy.lowenna@talktalk.net](mailto:joy.lowenna@talktalk.net) so she can update the prayer circle list.

I look forward to seeing many of you on Saturday at the Annual Service when we welcome a group of new readers who have just completed their training. I do hope you will be able to come and join us to celebrate their licensing and our ministry as Readers.

Jim