



nacukie news

Newsletter United Kingdom, Ireland and Isle of Man

March 2021



Foreword

Dear Sisters, Dear Brothers,

The Easter story is so well known to us and we have fittingly relived the Easter story annually. So, when our apostle asked me to write about Easter, I really did wonder what new thought I might share with you?

Like so many of our wonderful Bible stories, when we read them time and again, new thoughts may be inspired, and an annual revisit is no longer repetitive but becomes informative.

Personally, I so often discover that the most interesting parts of the Bible are the spaces between the lines. Reading between the lines, allows scope for a fertile imagination.

It is traditional to reflect on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, His death and His resurrection. Today however, I will share some thoughts on the trial and prosecution of Jesus.

After Pilate and Herod had sent Jesus back and forth, the decision was finally left in Pilate's hands as to His fate. Pilate had

been warned by his wife not to have anything to do with the killing of the innocent Jesus and she begged her husband to set Jesus free. *Matthew 27*

Her voice of reason, however, was disregarded in favour of Pilate forming a new friendship with an old enemy. Pilate remained conflicted by wanting to please his wife and set Jesus free as he appealed to the crowd again and again. With the crowds shouting, '**Crucify Him! Crucify Him!**' *Luke 23* the decision was sealed, and the sentence passed.

This conviction also suited the priests, who couldn't bear to see Jesus released as it would ruin their own standing and the benefits they received from their activities. Instead, they wanted Jesus dead and encouraged the people to continually cry out against Him. The majority of the crowd were whipped up into a frenzy. However, among them, there were a few sincere souls, who on that terrible day, had remembered that just a few days before, they did genuinely welcome Jesus into the city as the Son of God. Jesus addressed

them specifically, He took time to comfort those who were weeping and wailing for Him.

Pilate had offered the people a choice between the Saviour and the murderer. Maybe he assumed that the choice to free an innocent man was a no-brainer. However, the people wanted blood. The conflicted Pilate, after three times of trying to find a way to release Jesus, gave in to the demands of the people and handed Jesus over to the soldiers to be crucified. Pontius had the authority to override the people's will and free Jesus. He was offered the voice of reason, but he remained a weak leader, and that is part of the Easter story too.

Sometimes we must stand for what is right even if we find ourselves standing alone. We may be a small voice in a large crowd. Others wish to influence us, but we endeavour to stand for Jesus, to do the right thing and to never let His sacrifice be diminished. ■

David Middleton





Introduction

Sister Sanchia Morgan

An interview with school teacher, Sister Sanchia Morgan of Camberley Congregation

It is a bit of a cliché to say this, but I was definitely 'called' into the teaching profession by accident really. As a young 18-year-old I didn't really know what I wanted to do with my life. It wasn't until someone at the local university suggested teaching alongside a long list of options for me – that the thought of it really grew on me - and so that's what I did, and have continued to do for almost 20 years now. The best thing about teaching is the flexibility that comes with the profession and the various paths it can lead you down, creating opportunity for a broad and worthwhile experience that is second to none.

I currently teach secondary students who have all been excluded from mainstream education. My cohort is amongst the most vulnerable of young people in the country. I remember a very special moment when

working with a particular young lady from 'the worst borough in London,' (dubbed so at the time) - She had a lot to contend with in her home life and I was often in awe at how she managed to just get herself to school every day. As usual, I asked her how she was doing on that particular morning, and rather than the usual negative retort, she looked at me, flashed a rare big smile and said she was feeling blessed. I remember feeling so inspired by how this young person could feel so blessed given all her tribulations - that I really ought to count my own blessings.

Suffice to say, what I enjoy most about teaching is what I can learn from the young people – compassion, the broader perspective it gives me, the constant challenge to do more, or do it better tomorrow and the fact that no day is ever the same. The biggest challenge is to find a way to help my

students believe in themselves, to show them that they are allowed to dream big, to encourage them to set and achieve goals and to help them become kinder citizens against all the odds they face.

The coronavirus pandemic has presented a host of deeper problems in that our students do not have the support need-

At our best, we are all teachers Mary Angelou



Sanchia Morgan

ed from home and so many have fallen behind in their studies. Like so many wonderfully positive stories though, this pandemic has also highlighted things in my students that I may never have known before – having one-to-one hour long online lessons with the students has really provided a great platform to get to know them better and provide them with the individual attention they need - and so every cloud always has a silver lining. ■



Priest Steven Willmer

Introduction

Priest Steven Willmer and his son Damian

Priest Steven Willmer and his son Damian have managed the online streaming of divine services for a number of weeks. We asked them to introduce themselves and provide some background to what all happens behind the scenes.

? How did you get involved in IT as a career / hobby?

Steven: *A long time ago, my career started as a mining engineer ... however, I always enjoyed software development*

projects. The challenges were invigorating, and I found them much more satisfying than anything else. Pretty soon an opportunity arose, and I jumped across to IT. Can't say I've ever regretted it.

Damian: *As a child I spent most of my time playing computer games, which invoked a desire to understand how it all worked. Before I knew it, I was building and tinkering with computers as much as possible. Ultimately, this tinkering resulted in me going to university and being fortunate enough to have established a career as a software developer.*

? What were some of the initial challenges in getting Camberley set up?

Steven: *Getting everything set up properly proved to be quite a challenge.*



Unseen and unforeseen technical issues seemed to be coming from every aspect of the setup. Fortunately, with the help of Art Knappert and David Blencowe, we managed to solve the issues (with many Saturdays spent in Camberley testing different things that eventually paid off).

Damian: Personally, I think the hardware setup was the biggest initial challenge. We soon discovered we needed new hardware for streaming to be possible and after that it became 'easier,' with less technology issues. Luckily, with a group of extremely talented and committed individuals, these issues were overcome.



? Can you talk us through the preparation work needed before the Sunday service?

Steven: It all starts on Monday already, when the YouTube stream schedule is created and the communication process with the apostle, the serving assistants, and the music coordinator/s is started.

On Thursday evenings the assisting ministers and musicians perform sound tests during a Skype meeting.

Saturday afternoon is spent finalising the music program and ensuring the music is planned to the second to avoid any over or under runs. The software used for the stream is then configured and the technical aspects tested and rehearsed for each service.

Damian: For me, the Sunday preparation only starts on Saturday. As soon as the program has been finalised and everything is setup; which is all thanks to

all the hard work of the rest of the team, I rehearse the Sunday service structure in the OBS streaming tool. On the day itself, there are some last-minute music/sound/mic checks to ensure that it all works for the coming stream.

? What needs to be done during the service?

Steven: The streaming activities start early on Sunday, preparing everything for a prompt start. The assistant ministries and musicians connect via Skype. Then the live stream begins ...

During the service we ensure the microphones are unmuted and the camera remains in focus. We then 'relax and ENJOY' the service – keeping one eye on the technology, of course ...

Damian: During the service, there are usually two roles. Normally, one person manages the OBS software, doing

the scene transitions, and ensuring the stream goes out. The second person tends to manage GoToMeeting and the in-church sound. Typically, the person managing the sound is also responsible for making any camera position adjustment – when required. In addition, we need to ensure the appropriate mics are muted/unmuted at correct time.

? Have there been any particularly stressful moments?

Steven: Yes! A few ... The first service was probably the worst. Last minute I decided to use a laptop (as it was 'more powerful'). Unfortunately, the USB connections to the sound did not work on the laptop – causing severe sound issues during the service. By the time I realised what the problem was, it was too late to do anything. Lesson learnt – no last-minute changes and use proper equipment!



Damian Willmer





Damian: *Every service is marginally less stressful than the previous. For me, the most stressful service was Christmas Day service. Everything that could go wrong went wrong. We weren't fully prepared for everything to start failing in such quick succession! The best laid plans of mice and men, as they say. We have, however, taken onboard what happened and added measures to hopefully help prevent similar situations in the future.*

? Anything else you would like to add?

Steven: *The online streaming has been a wonderful experience with many learnings. I am truly grateful for all the support from everyone who has been involved. It has been a tremendous team effort – from the apostle and bishop to every musician and video editor sacrificing their time and energy to contribute their talents. Without everyone's participation,*

none of this would have been possible. Now, through technology God's word and God's love can reach the hearts of His children every week. We have all been blessed by this. ■

April Schedule

Online and telephone divine services in the UK and Ireland

Sunday Service (Sunday 10am GMT)

Good Friday 2 nd April	Ireland UK North UK South UK West	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/606478949 https://www.youtube.com/c/NewApostolicChurch-UKandIreland https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxy3AuyLqU59Nf_tT_ZKfqg https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/183268877
Easter Sunday 4 th April	Ireland UK North UK South UK West	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/606478949 https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/669815005 https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxy3AuyLqU59Nf_tT_ZKfqg https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/183268877
Sunday 11 th April	Ireland UK North UK South UK West	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/606478949 https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/669815005 https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxy3AuyLqU59Nf_tT_ZKfqg https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/183268877
Sunday 18 th April	Ireland UK North UK South UK West	https://www.youtube.com/c/NewApostolicChurch-UKandIreland https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/669815005 https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxy3AuyLqU59Nf_tT_ZKfqg https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/183268877
Sunday 25 th April	Ireland UK North UK South UK West	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/606478949 https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/669815005 https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxy3AuyLqU59Nf_tT_ZKfqg https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/183268877

Midweek Devotionals (Wednesday 8pm GMT)

Ireland	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/606478949
UK North	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/669815005
UK South	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/140348093
UK West	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/183268877



Telephone Connection

Ireland	Ireland	+353 15 295 146	Access Code	606-478-949
UK North	UK	+44 330 221 0097	Access Code	669-815-005
*UK South	UK	+44 330 221 0088	Access Code	140-348-093
UK West	UK	+44 808 178 0872	Access Code	183-268-877

**only available for midweek devotionals. Use UK West telephone connection for Sunday morning services.*

Other Activities

Songs of Fellowship - every Monday evening at 8pm	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFVvskXVeE3D3xHCbKNOSdA
Thought for the Day - 6am, 7am, 8am weekdays	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/669815005

Additional notes

We have a limited number of GTM licences for each district. Please therefore use the login assigned to your district so we remain under the maximum limits.

Times of divine services

Sunday morning Divine services will commence at 10:00 am.

Wednesday evening Devotionals will commence at 8:00 pm.

Online Access

For those using the online service for the first time please allow an extra few minutes to install the browser extension

OR Desktop app. See below::

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/183268877>

Telephone Access

For those connecting by telephone you will need the telephone number and access codes below which have been assigned to your district. Once you have dialled the telephone number you will be asked to enter the access code followed by the pound or hash sign (pound or hash = # button)

You will be then hear the following:

To enable audit controls please enter your audio pin or pound or hash sign.

If you do not have a pin, please enter your pound or hash sign.

At this point, please press # on your phone. You will then be placed into the meeting. The line will be silent until the divine service begins. Please place your phone on mute by either pressing the mute button or press * followed by the number 6.