

PASTORAL LETTER ...

Dear Friends

Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin. It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs, but sometimes he feels that there really is another way, if only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it. And then he feels that perhaps there isn't." - *A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh*

A few weeks ago I used this quote in a Sunday sermon and it seems to have stayed on my mind ever since. Are we all guilty of just getting on and doing things, because that's the way we have always done it, or, when we do stop bumping: if we stop bumping? Do we see if there is another way?

We have just celebrated Ascension day and Pentecost, May was a busy month in church life. But as Jesus leaves his disciples to be with his Father in heaven and as we remember the Holy Spirit descending on those first disciples, we see the beginnings of the church, a very different church to the one know today. A church that was just starting out, a church that would have been making up the rules as they went along, but a church that fundamentally started life to be the body of Christ here on earth and to share the good news Jesus had brought this world. Well, surely that hasn't changed, that's what we still are, even in a church full of rules and 'must dos'.

So, maybe 'stop bumping', and just be, 'stop bumping' and just pray, just be in the presence of God and remember why we do what we do and what church life is really all about, it's about being the love of Christ in our world, whatever that might look like in our lives.

Much love.

Revd Helen

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