

Student Minister's musings June 2019

As I write this I am preparing to leave home for the sunny north Yorkshire coast, where I shall be spending a few days on my ministerial placement. Formation training includes a variety of experiences and learning opportunities, of which my time in Oakham, and teaching at Queens are part. As my first year as a student minister comes to end, I am also spending time reflecting on ministry in a different context, that of the seaside, (I know it's a tough job, but I'm up for the challenge!). Placement lasts for 60 hours, and offers the student a variety of opportunities to be involved in Ministry in a different context, it builds on the experience and opportunities from the link church and includes a formal written assignment at the end of the placement, in which the student is encouraged to reflect on their future ministry.

In April I spent a few days in Scarborough while ECG took over the Spa. During this time I worked as part of the prayer ministry team and spent time with the Minister who I am on placement with. This week however will be much more church based, and I have been given a full diary of activity, including coffee mornings, local preacher training sessions, a conversation about confirmation and membership, a funeral, church meetings, faith lunches, oh and I'm preaching on Sunday! I'm sure that there will be lots for me to learn from and reflect on, but not much time to paddle in the sea! I will then conclude my placement hours in July when I shall return for a few more days.

With my diary constantly full, juggling family, work and training, I reflected recently on how we can so easily fall into the trap of plate spinning, with so many things to do and prepare for, that we almost forget the real purpose of what we are doing. I'm sure that there are many of you reading this and recognising just how many plates we all spin. If that's you, then I pray that like me we might remember that plates are there for us to eat from, to be filled with good, nourishing things which will equip and sustain us. It's also true that plates are rarely alone, they are part of a set. Jesus invites us to sit together and to break bread together. Around this table we learn to recognise the love, grace and healing of the one who calls us his beloved children. These plates are worth so much more than spinning, they are transforming, so I pray that when we feel like we are handed another plate to spin, we might instead, take it to the table, and feast on whatever delights it may hold for us.

And so as I leave for Scarborough I send my greetings of peace to you all, and ask that you will continue to hold me in your prayers as I hold you in mine. Let's give thanks and praise to God who joins with us at the table, sharing His amazing gifts and opportunities, that we learn more of His love for us, and how we might share that love with others.

Blessings Sarah x