



Ken Webb

It's impossible to condense such an important and influential Christian life into a couple of paragraphs and I'm not going to make any attempt to do so. Qualified both in medicine and theology, his working journey through the world has enabled him to spend his entire time in helping

others, both in Britain and in Thailand. All I can suggest is that you think about the multitude of people who must have benefitted from his skills and his teaching.

Born in China where his parents were missionaries, he spent his early years in Burma (where he learnt Burmese) after which he was sent to boarding school in Britain. He graduated in medicine in 1971 and then spent a gap year in Thailand assisting the doctors there and setting up a Student Christian group before returning for further study in the UK. A series of chance encounters seemed to be steering him to return to Thailand to work and he followed this call until returning to the UK because of his father's ill health. At this point, he began to study theology and in 1993 graduated from Trinity College, Bristol. Now he was very much sought after as a priest who could speak fluent Thai, so he returned to Thailand, this time as a priest rather than as a doctor. He worked for several years South East of Bangkok before finally returning to the UK.

He says that he and Carol attended a service at Christ Church (without his dog-collar) and was warmed by the welcome the congregation gave to strangers. When the Bishop suggested that he might take the Duns post, he didn't hesitate. Since then, he has worked tirelessly for the Diocese, both in Duns and teaching in Edinburgh.

All I can say is this: we have been incredibly lucky to have had Ken working here among us. I know that I have taken great strides "along the road" thanks to him. I'm sure that many others in Duns will agree with me.

HP

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

Regular Events

Contemplative Prayer: Contemplative Prayer Mondays at 4.30pm. Venues to be announced, phone for details 01361 883315.

Study Group: Wednesdays at 10.00 am at 11 Murray Street

Meeting Point: May 31st: Speaker Jean Miller on Quilting.

Sunday Services (10.30am)

4th June: Pentecost Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104 24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13; John 7.37-39

11th June: Trinity Sunday Genesis 1.1-2.4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13.11-13; Matthew 28.16-20

18th June: Exodus 19.2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5.1-8; Matthew 9.35-10.8(9-23)

25th June: Jeremiah 20.7-13; Psalm 69.7-10, 11-15, 16-18; Romans 6.1b-11; Matthew 10.24-39

Special Events

Saturday 24th June: the Diocesan Growing Together Roadshow (as per notice in church) comes to St Peter's Galashiels and will run from 10am till 3pm. Anyone is free to attend any of the events in the diocese advertised in a leaflet at the back of the church leaflet. However, the one in the Borders will also focus on developing a Borders-wide strategy for growth, so is particularly relevant for us. If you have not done so already, please let Ken know as soon as possible if you plan to attend.

Sunday 25th June: A farewell bring and share lunch in the Rectory garden after church. A marquee will be erected in case of rain.

Wednesday 28th June: Meeting Point Outing to The Hirsell Cottage Tearoom. If anyone wants details please contact Joan Noble 882386.

Please pray for our General Synod on 8-11th June, that our members may make decisions that will lead our church forward with compassion, love and faith into the future.

Pray for our young people going to summer camps and for the Berwickshire Christian Youth Trust .

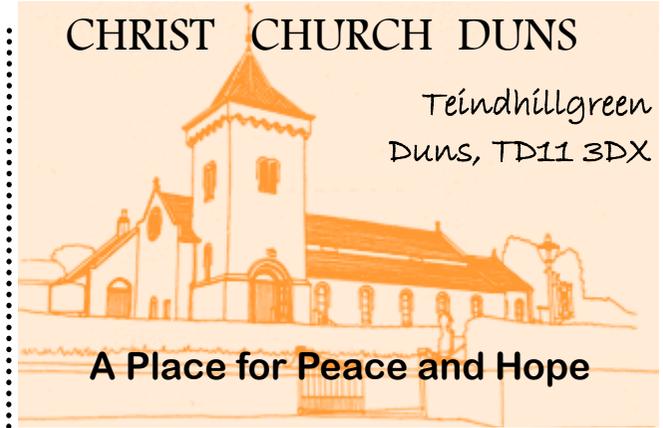
Pray for Ken and Carol in their new life: may they have a peaceful and happy retirement.

Pray for all known to us who are ill, housebound and needing our prayers.



CHRIST CHURCH DUNS

Teindhillgreen
Duns, TD11 3DX



A Place for Peace and Hope

Seeking to be a family of caring people growing in the knowledge and love of God through Jesus Christ and expressing that love, with the help of the Holy Spirit, through our relationships with one another and our

Newsletter



It's "Drink in the presence of the Lord" and not "Drink, in the presence of the Lord". There's no comma.....

Dear Friends,

Since this will be the last time I contribute to the Newsletter the vestry thought it would be good if I could use it to reflect on the 15 years I have spent as rector of this congregation. For me it has been quite a spiritual journey. And I have been immensely privileged and helped by having such a welcoming and accommodating congregation to work with. Thank you so much for your patience with me as I have tentatively moved forward to explore the edges of faith as well as rediscover its true centre in Christ.

What has given me most joy has been the way you have engaged with what I have been sharing Sunday by Sunday, or in the study group and the contemplative prayer group. I love passing on something of the enlarged understanding of the scriptures and of our faith that I have been discovering whilst I have been with you. Your constructive criticism has always been helpful, and you are quite prepared to tell me when something I have said has gone over your heads. On the other hand you have also told me when I was hitting the mark and making sense. So I have learned as much from you folks as I have from books that I enjoy reading to feed my mind and nourish my soul.

I have appreciated the way you have given me the freedom to participate more fully in the life of the diocese, particularly over these past five years. The teaching and facilitating of seminars for students was a very enriching experience for me and I felt I had found my true niche. I trust that some of this has rubbed off on the congregation as well.

I arrived here after a very intensive time in Banchang, Rayong Province, on the South Eastern seaboard of Thailand. Amazingly, and with the help of a team, including Carol, we saw a group of newly baptised Thai believers come together to form a congregation. The work was supported by a group of ex-patriots who were working in the petrochemical industry that was growing up in the area. So we had two services every Sunday, one in Thai and one in English. The ex-pats have all moved on, but the congregation survives and is led by Thai lay people to this day. But it was also a very stressful time for me. The pressure came from Singapore (we were in the Anglican diocese of Singapore) where expectations of growth were such that

they expected the same in Thailand. I would have preferred to have started much more slowly.

So coming here was at first for refreshment! But, having spent so much of my life in Thailand, it took me at least two years before I began to feel at home in the UK. As Helen said, I found your warm welcome very helpful. Then, during that time I discovered I had developed a malignant melanoma in my right eye. Fortunately I discovered this before it spread and they managed to remove it successfully. When told that I had a 1 in 7 chance of surviving the first year my attitude was to view it as a challenge and to trust God for healing. But it was one of those things that propelled me forward on the spiritual pathway towards Christ Consciousness.

I seem to be like a cat with nine lives! I nearly died of malaria when I was three in a communist prison with my parents. I nearly died when, riding a motor bike, I was hit by a van going through red lights in Bangkok in 1986. The malignant melanoma was another time and, of course, my accident last year when I fell asleep at the wheel. But each of these has been an occasion for spiritual growth; not that I want any more lessons like these!

Richard Rhor reminds us in his books again and again that there are two ways in which God transforms us into the likeness of Christ. One is through suffering, because through suffering we learn to let go of ego. But the other, and the more fundamental, is through an experience of great love, the kind of love that will not let us go, no matter what mess we make of things. I have been blessed to have experienced both. All of us who have reached any maturity of age will have had to pass through suffering, be it pain, ill health or loss of loved ones. But, because most in the church have grown up with a punitive image of God, we do not always find it so easy to experience the God revealed by Jesus to be none other than all encompassing and inclusive Love.

So, I suppose the greatest thing that has happened to me over these past 15 years is a deep experience of the love of God. This has to be experienced. But we so often miss it because we are looking in the wrong places. It is not to be found 'up there', but down here, in the ordinary things of life, in every day events and, above all, through the love we have for one another.

So my prayer for you all as I leave is expressed best by St Paul in his letter to the Philippian church "My prayer for you is that you may have still more love—a love that is full of knowledge and wise insight. I want you to be able always to

recognise the highest and the best, and to live sincere and blameless lives until the day of Jesus Christ. I want to see your lives full of true goodness, produced by the power that Jesus Christ gives you to the praise and glory of God." (Phil. 1.9-11, J.B.Phillips)

Grace and peace, Ken

Vestry Update



Ken's Retirement

Ken's last service at Christ Church will be on June 25th followed by a celebration at the Rectory. We are continuing to collect for a leaving gift and will let you know details when it has been purchased.

We are starting a profile of Christ Church in preparation for a new appointment and would like views and comments from the wider congregation. We have already received an excellent report on our local area and the ethos of our church, if you would like to contribute your thoughts please email:

christchurch.duns@outlook.com

or pass your comments to a vestry member.

We are hopeful that a meeting with Bob King will happen imminently to discuss future services at Christ Church.

Christina Fairclough

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Material for inclusion in the July newsletter should be submitted as early as possible and by Tuesday, July 25th at the latest.