



# Ramblings from the Rectory

July 2017

There has been so much bad news over the last weeks and months. I have spoken about these and done what I can to help, but I do not want to reflect further on these events here. I think good news is called for and I have two really good news stories to celebrate.

**The first cause for celebration is Tim's ordination to the priesthood.** Tim, our wonderful curate, had already been ordained as a deacon. 'Deacon' means servant in Greek and Tim's ministry has been that of a servant of Christ and a servant of Christ's people. That servant ministry will remain as a foundation for Tim's ministry as it now takes on more of the character of leadership. A priest is a leader of Christ's people as well as their servant. This is a huge privilege and responsibility and I am sure that, with the Spirit's help, Tim will be worthy of his calling. The ordination service puts it like this:

*God calls his people to follow Christ, and forms us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.*

*The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. In baptism, the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of his kingdom.*

*To serve this royal priesthood, God has given particular ministries. Priests are ordained to lead God's people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel. They share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church, delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being. They are to set the example of the Good Shepherd always before them as the pattern of their calling. With the Bishop and their fellow presbyters (priests), they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of word and sacrament, that we all may grow into the fullness of Christ and be a living sacrifice acceptable to God.*

**The second cause for celebration is the recognition of Archbishop Sancroft High School (ASHS) as an OUTSTANDING church school.** All church schools have two types of inspection, both required by law. One is the well known Ofsted inspection and the other is the SIAMS inspection. They are very similar in their rigour and intensity. SIAMS stands for Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools. SIAMS doesn't just look at RE and Collective Worship. Every aspect of the school is considered to see whether or not it's distinctive Christian values are lived out in every part of the school's life, including how it is run, and managed. SIAMS inspectors look for clear evidence of the school's values improving academic results, and for evidence of a positive impact on those around, including parents, the community and the local church. As you can imagine, being awarded OUTSTANDING is a huge achievement, one we should all be proud of on behalf of our school.

Here are a few quotes from the report:

*The school's Christian ethos is valued by all members of the school community, and has a significant positive impact on behaviour, relationships and attitudes to learning.*

*Its clear and embedded Christian ethos is at the heart of the life and work of Archbishop Sancroft High School (ASHS). Jesus' promise in John 10:10 of 'life in all its fullness' takes pride of place in the school*

*The headteacher is an outstanding Christian role model and, with his whole staff team, clearly has a hugely significant impact on relationships being of the highest quality throughout the school.*

*...the school (is) an inclusive 'family' in which pupils of all ability levels and backgrounds are known well as individuals, are cared for and supported, and are given the very best opportunities. In turn, these values underpin the excellent relationships between pupils that are evident throughout the school and impacts positively on their very good personal development and wellbeing. They are shown in daily school life, in outstanding pupil behaviour and attitudes.*

*Christian character and values since the last denominational inspection is seen in how successfully aspirations have been raised and developments have been driven. Examination results over time show that this is a strong and improving school. Pupils make good progress across all subject areas, with all cohorts in the school on track to meet or exceed national expectations for progress.*

*RE makes a very significant contribution to pupils' appreciation of diversity and differences of belief within Christianity and in other faith communities, including opportunities to explore Christianity as a multicultural, worldwide faith.*

The full SIAMS report is available on our website <http://www.7churches.org.uk/schools> or from the school website: <http://www.ashs.org.uk/> or [http://www.ashs.org.uk/docs/Archbishop Sancroft High School SIAMS Report 2017 1 2.pdf](http://www.ashs.org.uk/docs/Archbishop_Sancroft_High_School_SIAMS_Report_2017_1_2.pdf)

For August, I hope to have good news for you about the Church Army Centre for Mission starting in Harleston. But until then, have a great July.

God bless,

Nigel.