

A few words from the Vicar

'Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest.'
The Book of Common Prayer



Some things grow on you, don't they!

In July I mentioned that I had mixed feelings about the Olympics. Not being particularly sporty myself, I had a touch of the Victor Meldrews about the whole thing!

But as time went by and I settled down to watch, the Olympics just grew on me. I'm glad to say the coverage on the telly was a lot better than I had anticipated (well done BBC) and the range of sports was phenomenal. Something for everyone!

I must admit there were times when my eyes were glued to the telly!

And all those medals won by Team GB. Despite being a relatively small country, coming third in the league table behind the USA and China is a fantastic achievement. These were rightly dubbed the 'feel good' Olympics, giving rise to a burst of good-natured patriotism. The Games have been a reminder that, as a nation, we have so much going for us and that those who write us off are surely mistaken. A reminder too that the issues we face as a nation are there to be overcome!

Well, you could say the Book of Common Prayer has grown on me too!

I come from a generation of Anglicans for whom it seemed important to modernise our worship to make it 'more relevant'. If only we could do that, we thought, the Church would grow again. The reality is Church growth is a lot more complex and one of the surprises in recent years has been the growth in attendance at traditional Cathedral worship. But that's another story.

So, anyway, out went all the 'thees' and 'thous' and (to varying degrees in different parishes) in came the Alternative Service Book followed by Common Worship, worship songs and the range of worship styles we see in the Church of England today (Taizé, Celtic, Charismatic etc etc).

And let me stress, I rather like the range of worship on offer today. There is, indeed, something for everyone!

But, as I grew in faith I began to attend worship on Sunday evenings as well as Sunday mornings (hint, why not give it a try!) and once a month I experienced the joys of something called Evensong.

Considering myself something of a moderniser at the time, at first I was none too keen but, after a few months, like the Olympics, Evensong simply grew on me!

It was the timelessness of Evensong and the beauty of the language that got to me. It doesn't take long for my ears to attune to the Elizabethan English whenever I watch a decent production of one of Shakespeare's plays. Likewise the language of Evensong grows on you rapidly; it is poetry to the ears!

So, when I was exploring the possibility of a call to come to this parish I must say I was glad to discover that Evensong is still alive and well at Ainsworth and that good number of people attend each week.

And, as far as I'm concerned, long may this continue!

Well, this year marks a very important anniversary; 2012 marks the 350th anniversary of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer (BCP). It is a remarkable book that has shaped the worship and doctrine of the Church of England and the Global Anglican Communion.

The Prayer Book Society (whose job is to promote the continued use of the BCP within the Church of England) hopes that this anniversary year will encourage those who may not be familiar with the BCP, or who have not used it for some time, to dip into the beauty contained within its pages.

With that in mind, at 10.30am on 16th September our service will be Mattins followed by BCP Holy Communion. There will also be an opportunity to experience the beauty of Mattins at 11.00am on Saturday 22nd September.

In years gone by BCPs would be given as prizes and gifts and often people would bring their own copy to Church. Well, why not blow the dust off your old BCP and bring it along!

Every Blessing

Dave