



St Luke's in the City

150 years - 2009

Celebrating at the Crossroads

4th Sunday of Easter

13 April 2008

Dear Friends,

This morning we farewell Megan Herles-Mooar. Megan came to us from St Michael & All Angels, and during the last couple of years has been testing among us a call to priesthood. Some of us were involved with last year's discernment interviews, the outcome of which was an invitation to Megan from Bishop David to take the next step in the discernment of that call. Thus, since the second half of 2007 Megan has formally been designated 'theological student' of the Diocese. With her colleagues in the Diocesan Ordination Training (DOT) programme, Megan is testing a vocation – by undertaking formal theological studies, participation in the monthly DOT gatherings, and 'parish placement' here at St Luke's.

Today we have an opportunity to thank her for her companionship, her co-leading of the icon group, and her participation in liturgical leadership. Because Megan is now called into another faith community it is also our task to release her, to let her go, so that she may be free to enter as fully as possible into the community to which she goes - the parish of Holy Trinity Avonside. And because it is our hope that all of us may be a blessing to others it is also our task and our joy to bless her in her quest.

The discernment which is required of the person who tests a call to priesthood is, fundamentally, no different from the discernment required of all the baptised. God has made our hearts restless, until they find their rest in God alone. That restlessness impels us to search, to long for union, for completion, which is expressed as the desire to love and serve God, and our neighbour as ourself. The pattern and shape of life which is required in order to give expression to that longing for union is uniquely-given to each of us.

But we cannot see it in advance. We do not know for sure where and how and what. All we ever have is glimpses, hints, guesses. The person who feels called to be a priest has clearly been prompted by something - a Someone! But the difficulty is that the voice of God which calls an individual is also distorted by a thousand other voices – some can be well-meaning but misguided friends, some are church-as-institution, the most potent are the generally-unconscious voices, buried deep within our histories and experiences.

Our task is to make space for the sifting of voices. That task requires an intense and searing self-search, the testing of the call within the authority and limitations of the community of faith - and plenty of time! We pray for you and bless you in your search Megan! Please pray for us too.

With my love,
David