

Connecting faith and daily life



Fake news

Janice Scott *reflects on*
Mark 3:20-end

After allowing his disciples to pluck grain on the sabbath Jesus heals someone with a withered hand. People are so shocked by his blatant disregard of sabbath laws that they conclude that he must be “out of his mind”. When his family turn up, it is possibly to take him into safekeeping. This prompts Jesus to teach more about love, saying that family consists of far more than blood relations.

Into this melee come scribes from Jerusalem, out to trap Jesus and sway the people with fake news. In order to cast doubt

on Jesus’ healing miracles, they accuse him of being in league with the devil. Jesus points out the illogicality of this: “How can Satan cast out Satan?” he asks. He goes on to say that the only sin which can never be forgiven is one against the Holy Spirit. The scribes have deliberately twisted the truth. By saying that God’s gift of healing through Jesus comes from the devil, they have denied the presence of God and reversed the concepts of good and evil.

We are subjected to so much fake news today that it is sometimes difficult to discern what is true. But one thing is sure – to deliberately twist the truth to make evil appear good and vice versa is still a sin against the Holy Spirit. ☺

Loving God, give me the determination always to search for the truth, and when this puts me in opposition to popular opinion, give me the courage to stand up for what is right. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

The General Synod *Part 2 – Who is on General Synod?*

by Becky Mynett

General Synod is made up of three Houses – Bishops, Clergy and Laity. Most Synod members are elected to serve for a five-year period known as a “quinquennium”. The main exception is diocesan bishops, who are *ex-officio* members. Along with some elected suffragan bishops, they form the House of Bishops.

Most members of the Houses of Clergy and Laity are elected by deanery synods, although there are also representatives of religious orders, universities and

theological education institutions, and cathedral deans, as well as *ex-officio* positions (such as Armed-Forces chaplains and those who have roles with other Church institutions). The three houses sit together.

Synod members are representatives rather than delegates, so their role is to engage with their dioceses and to participate in Synod debates. The members of the Synod then have to make up their minds about the issues and vote accordingly. There are no “political parties”, but many members, once elected, join one or more “special interest groups”. ☺

Walking with Rosie

What’s going on?

by Gillian Cooper

There’s something amiss with Rosie’s walk this morning. We are earlier than usual, so we don’t meet the same dogs. And we don’t go as far as usual along the river before we turn back. Rosie looks at me, puzzled. Have I forgotten the route? I can’t explain to her that we are going out with my sister and Ettie the spaniel. Back home, Rosie seems slightly reassured when she sees me put treats in my bag.

We leave the house again as a car pulls up outside. It’s Ettie! An outing! Crisis over.

Will we one day see what our walk through life has been about? Will we know what it has all been for, the diversions and the dead ends, the meetings and partings, the happiness and the grief, the successes and the mistakes, the anticipation and the fear? Will there be, at the end of our journey, a place of love and joy where everything becomes clear? ☺

“ I have learned that faith means trusting in advance what will only make sense in reverse.”

Philip Yancey (born 1949), author