

Oh Happy Day!

Wedding day is special for any couple. But it was an extra special day when Sarah Joy Thompson and Daniel Drayton tied the knot in Canford Magna Parish Church.

Sarah grew up going to the Church with Mum and Dad, John and Lesley. Sarah was special because she has Down's Syndrome and loved to come up to the mic to sing. Sarah had met a new friend, Daniel, who has Autism, at her Day Centre. Daniel and Sarah started attending the *Breakfast@9* informal service together. Soon, their friendship blossomed into romance, and they got engaged.

This happy news was followed by the reality of what they were proposing. Did Sarah have the legal capacity to marry? Were there any precedents, or Church of England guidance? Their Rector, Canon Chris Tebbutt, sprang into action.

After complex discussions with the Diocese's legal advisors, social services and the Bishop, Chris decided that Sarah and Daniel did have the capacity to marry.

Sarah's Mum, Lesley, leads a professional freelance orchestra, so the joyful service was full of music and celebration.

Social Services are now looking to house Daniel and Sarah Joy in their own flat close enough to walk to their church.



Bishop's Letter

The Right Revd Dr Graham Kings
Bishop of Sherborne

The Archbishop of Canterbury has told the story of his first meeting with Pope Francis in Rome. The Pope greeted him with the words, *'I'm more senior than you.'* This rather surprised Archbishop Justin, who smiled and replied, *'Yes, your Holiness.'* Pope Francis went on, *'By two days.'* Centuries of angst were punctured by humanity and humour.

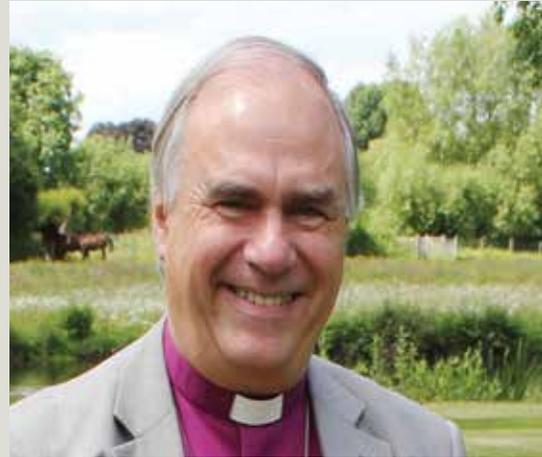
Pope Francis, with his openness to other traditions in Argentina, has been described as an 'evangelical Catholic'. Archbishop Justin, with his Catholic spiritual director and links with a French charismatic renewal movement, could be seen as a 'catholic Evangelical'.

Two of my favourite places of retreat and renewal reflect these nuances. Hilfield, the centre for Anglican Franciscans near Cerne Abbas in Dorset, seems to me to be evangelical Catholic.

I have regular quiet days there and drink from the deep wells of silence, simplicity and delight in ecology. Brother Sam has gathered an extraordinary community, which includes young lay people and couples as well as Brothers. Hilfield is the lungs of Dorset, and last month we blessed the beautiful new Canticle Garden.

Lee Abbey, a conference, retreat and holiday centre on the north coast of Devon, has links with Hilfield through one of its founders, Jack Winslow.

It has an international community of about 90 young people. With its emphasis on wide-ranging renewal and mission, it seems to me to be catholic Evangelical.



Annie Naish, Lee Abbey missionary, with community members, leads celebration weeks in multi parish rural benefices in various dioceses.

How about exploring God's refreshing Spirit at Hilfield or Lee Abbey?

A Wheely Great Idea

Four boys from All Saints School in Netheravon cycled 20 miles to Salisbury Cathedral to raise money for a school in Afghanistan.

The idea came from 10 year old Matthew Bradley, after Dr Mohammad from Helmand visited All Saints to talk about his work with the Afghan Appeal Fund.

Matthew teamed up with brother James and friends Vaughn Covil and Max Harper to think about how to help. With their parents, and teacher Ross

Nashwalder, they planned a route and fundraising.

They made it over the hills to Salisbury in three hours and raised £600 .

Matthew said “We really enjoyed the cycle and are proud we raised so much money.”



Journeying at Hilfield

Almost 50 young people visited Hilfield Franciscan Friary this summer for the annual Youth Camp. This year’s theme was journeys. The camp provides a chance for youth to explore their faith journey and meet other young people of faith.

Campers spoke of feeling closer to God, helping each other, and making friends for life. One said a previous camp is what made her confident enough to volunteer in her own church for the first time.

Living in community in the unique friary atmosphere provides an opportunity to try out different expressions of faith. One camper said, “Taking part in Compline and just having a chance to be quiet is great’.



Helping Angels Unawares

Active retirement has a new meaning for Julie James, a Mission to Seafarers' ship visitor. She calls herself an 'auntie', dispensing sweets and biscuits to seafarers. Yet every Thursday sees her in the macho environment of Poole Docks at dawn, visiting cargo ships from around the world.

"You can get a smile or a gruff look!", says Julie, "We try and get to the chef - the kitchen is the hub of any ship! The food is variable but sometimes wonderful.

"We were visiting an American ship serving gorgeous double-decker sandwiches and homemade cookies. The chef was huge - 6 foot 4 with a girth to match. When I mentioned this, he said 'Yes, Ma'am, we have to test all the food before we can serve it.'"

Julie took on the role five years ago when she worshipped at St Michael's, Melksham. She initially worked in Southampton until she moved home to an apartment in Poole's dockland.

British and Scandinavian crews rarely request help. Other visitors come from Eastern Europe, the Philippines and more exotic places like Cape Verde. Today, crews are often multinational.

Sometimes crews need basic practical help like directions to the supermarket or pharmacy. But often her most useful role is being someone to talk to.

"The hardest thing for a seafarer is when something goes wrong in their family, and they won't be home for months. This is even more true for captains. Being a ship's captain is one of the loneliest jobs there is."

A regular worshipper at St James', Poole, Julie sees her role as part of her faith and Hebrews 13.2 as her inspiration - "*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*"

For more info on the Mission to Seafarers' work, visit flyingangel.org.



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