

From the Chaplain...

Our Gospel reading this Sunday, the story of Jesus and the woman at the well (John 4. 5-42), is an episode full of meanings and possibilities. But one moment has always caught my eye in particular, that of the Samaritan woman testifying about Jesus after their encounter: 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done!' (v.29). There is something arresting about this cascade of action words – come, see, told, done – that serves to evoke the woman's renewed sense of anticipation and hope about life. And, crucially, this renewal comes from Jesus' capacity to fulfil in her one of the deepest and most abiding of human desires, the desire we all have to be known. That God knows everything about us is indeed wonderful, but it is also terrifying. To be known is to be vulnerable. Yet this is what makes the Samaritan woman a person of genuine faith: in her readiness to be known by Jesus, she in turn is empowered to recognise him for who he really is.

I commend to you this month's edition of the diocesan newspaper, *The Bridge*, which is attached to this mailing. If you look at the bottom of page 10, you will see some familiar faces in a feature about our service of Choral Evensong commemorating the tercentenary of the death of Sir Christopher Wren on 25 February. Also attached to this email is the text of the sermon delivered at the service by the Revd Prof William Whyte, as well as the sermon delivered by the Revd Dr David Neaum at our service this past Sunday.

Please be assured that you all remain in my prayers, and I am always pleased to hear from you. I send you my very best wishes and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Yours faithfully,
Robert

chaplain@ornc.org
T: 020 8269 4796
M: 07814 704704