

The Sheldon Community

*Annual
Community Re-Dedication*

Friday 29th July 2016

Music is playing as everyone takes their seats in silence.

Welcome

Welcome in the communion of the Holy Spirit

Welcome in the love of Jesus of Nazareth

Welcome in the name of the Wise, Compassionate, Living God

The Paschal candle is lit

God of mysterious presence

God who speaks light into being

God revealed to us in Jesus

you have called each of us by name

The Lord be a light to our path

The Lord lead you in all His ways

Community each light a candle

We bring our wholeness and our brokenness

We bring the time of our lives

May we seek your eternal kingdom

We bring our stewardship and our wastefulness

We bring the time of our lives

May we seek your eternal kingdom

We bring our skills and our ignorance

We bring the time of our lives

May we seek your eternal kingdom

We bring our service and our selfishness

We bring the time of our lives

May we seek your eternal kingdom

We bring our strength and our weakness

We bring the time of our lives

May we seek your eternal kingdom

We bring our stability and our restlessness

We bring the time of our lives

May we seek your eternal kingdom

We bring our energy and apathy
We bring the time of our lives
May we seek your eternal kingdom
We bring our successes and our failures
We bring the time of our lives
May we seek your eternal kingdom

Taize chant:

***The Lord is my light, my light and salvation
in God I trust, in God I trust.***

Confession and absolution

**God you know us as we are
you know our selfishness
our anger and bitterness
our fear and apathy
our hardness of heart
our deliberate blindness
our need to begin again
In your mercy and love forgive us
change and renew us in Christ
Amen**

Period of silence

The absolution is pronounced together, to one another

**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners
Hear then the word of grace : your sins are forgiven**

Readings

After each reading, a short period of silence is kept

First reading

Growing in Trust - Jean Vanier - The Broken Body

The sense of belonging flows from trust: trust is the gradual acceptance of others as they are with their gifts and their limits, each one with the call of Jesus. And this leads to the realization that the body of community is not perfectly whole

and cannot be, that this is our human condition. And it is all right for us to be less than perfect. We must not weep over our imperfections. We are not judged for being defective. Our God knows that in so many ways we are lame and half blind. We will never win the olympics of humanity, racing for perfection, but we can walk together in hope, celebrating that we are loved in our brokenness:

helping each other
growing in trust
living in thanksgiving
learning to forgive
opening up to others
welcoming them

and striving to bring peace and hope to our world. So it is that we come to put down roots in community not because it is perfect and wonderful, but because we believe that Jesus has called us together. It is where we belong and are called to grow and serve.

Second Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians ch 2 v 1-5

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness or sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing that would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody must be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of their own interests first, but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

Intercessions

We pray for the Sheldon Community, established and joining for Carl, Sue, Jan, Hillary, Sarah, Rhian and Andrew

Taize Chant:

**Oh Lord hear my prayer, oh Lord hear my prayer
When I call answer me**

**Oh Lord hear my prayer, oh Lord hear my prayer
Come and listen to me.**

We pray for Alison
preparing to share our life and ministry as an Alongsider

Oh Lord hear my prayer ...

We pray for all who belong at Sheldon
for staff, volunteers, Friends

Oh Lord hear my prayer ...

We pray for all who are welcomed at Sheldon
for retreats, in crisis, groups, theatre

Oh Lord hear my prayer ...

We pray for all people in Christian ministry
as they seek to serve you

Oh Lord hear my prayer ...

We pray for those who are sick or distressed
especially those known to us

Oh Lord hear my prayer ...

We pray for the needs of the world
for people and planet

Oh Lord hear my prayer ...

Silence

Dear God,

**we ask you to accept all our prayers
and the unspoken desires of our hearts
in the name of Christ**

Amen.

Welcoming of Andrew and Rhian

Rhian, we invite you to join the Sheldon Community, to make your home here and to share our common life and work.

Rhian

Under God I choose to walk this path with you.

Andrew, we invite you to join the Sheldon Community, to make your home here and to share our common life and work.

Andrew

Under God I choose to walk this path with you.

Together we commit to each other
our time and talents
our passion and purpose
our resources and relationships
our loyalty and hopes

Candles are handed to Andrew and Rhian by Rosalind and Rob Rutherford from All Saints Basingstoke.

Andrew and Rhian light the candles from the Paschal candle and place them among the Community candles.

All say

**We pray for each and all of you as you seek to build
Community together**

Community Re-Dedication

Carl pours water into the large bowl and says

God of all that is, may this water be a sign to us of the life of Christ flowing in and through our lives.

Friends say to the Community:

**Will you live, work and pray together as the Sheldon
Community, seeking to develop stability in your common
life?**

Community response:

We will support and encourage one another as we seek to live out God's calling rooted and grounded in the rhythm of our common life

Friends say to the Community:

Will you accept the shared calling of servanthood, treating

with love, dignity and respect all those you minister alongside and all the guests entrusted to your care?

Community response:

We seek to meet the needs of each person in a spirit of welcome, hospitality and service.

Members of the Community dip small bowls

Alison stands

Community to Alison

Alison we invite you to come and share our lives, living and working alongside our Community.

May your life and ministry here be a blessing to you and to all those you serve

Alison says

Under God I choose to walk this path with you.

Community each make a sign of the cross on Alison's palms

All say

We pray for each and all of you in your common life and ministry.

Everyone stands

Members of the Community take water to make a sign of the cross on the palms of each guest.

Each person sits down after receiving. When all are seated ...

Friends say to the Community:

Will you be good stewards of all the resources God gives you, living as witnesses to the faithfulness of God's provision?

Community response:

We will be trustworthy in our stewardship of God's gifts, seeking God's purpose and God's glory.

The bowls of water are poured back into the central bowl

Community to Friends:

Will you as Friends pray for us and support us in our common

life, our ministry and our witness?

Friends' Response:

We pray for you now as you make these promises of stability, servanthood and stewardship. We will continue to pray for you throughout the coming year. We pray that you will be richly blessed in your life together, and that through your service will bring blessing to many. We pray that you will be given strength, wisdom, guidance and support. We ask all these things of the God who calls you and equips you in His service, in the name of Christ. Amen.

A short period of silence, then all stand:

The cross **We shall take it.**

The bread **We shall break it.**

The pain **We shall bear it.**

The joy **We shall share it.**

The Gospel **We shall live it.**

The love **We shall give it.**

The light **We shall cherish it.**

The darkness **God shall perish it.**

The Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you

May the wind be always at your back

May the sun shine warm upon your face

And the rains fall softly on your fields

And till we meet again

May God hold you

In the hollow of his hand

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Be with us all, evermore. Amen.