

St Peter's Ealing

Sunday 27th May 2018

Trinity Sunday and the Commissioning of the PCC 2018-19

How do you see God?

What is your image of God? When you say your prayers what comes to mind? Some of us will have images given to us from our Sunday School days. Maybe your image is inspired by art – Michael Angelo perhaps, the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

Mine is of a man hanging on a tree of shame, on a hill outside the city walls of Jerusalem. That moment just as the final breath leaves his body, on the very cusp of death as the whole of eternity is held for a split second, where humanity and divinity are finely balanced in equal measure. Then God is made real, all creation is held... and then gone. The redemptive moment passes, leaving the gates of death and hell in tatters.

That is why you, me, the church matters. Yet, we fail constantly to take on the importance of our faith and our place in its journey. Yes, your place. You are not a spectator to the game of salvation; or a passenger on the bus of redemption. You are held in that breath, that final moment when God and humanity are held in the redemptive instant.

It is so hard to hold on to this in the humdrum of daily life; as we go about our business – the morning shower, eating, working, sleeping. When it comes to serving God in his church we treat it like any other job – and try to avoid it. We fail to see these tasks as being set in that final breath, that God/human relationship that brings redemption to the world.

Today we mark that importance, that specialness and to give support, in commissioning our new PCC; emphasising this is not just another task in the diary, another job to be taken on with a sigh of resignation. This is God's work commissioned in that final breath, that moment as we and God hold the universe. The work of church officers – welcomers, servers, choir, clergy, readers, committee members – all of this is the work of God. If only we could recognise this as part of our faith, our image of God, our understanding of God in the world, we might just stop saying 'not me' and embrace what it is God is calling us to – to serve one another as he serves us – and to celebrate what has been given us in that final divine moment.