

St James News: Thought for the day – Friday 23rd October 2020

A thought about puppets - Rev John Marshall

At today's coffee morning (well on the 21st October), we had some extra guests, among them was Panda, a body puppet. The body puppets are cuddly and communicative. Some are complex and I have had some relatively simple puppets – some were a glove with an expressive mouse's face made of soft fleece. They were ideal for taking into school – as were the body puppets.

However the three mice came from Northampton market; so when sometime after I went to a selection conference for ordination/training, as it was at the World's End in Northamptonshire, the mice went too. The selection process was interesting and the mice helped – it was successful.

So eventually I joined the Southwark Ordination Course – meeting in the John Marshall Hall.

When it came to our residentials at Wychcroft in Bletchingly, the puppets came too – at least some of them and frequently the cuddliest. It was a strange thing, sometimes quite regularly the puppets would disappear to comfort or support some of my fellow ordinands. In their own way they had a pastoral role.

They also gave people the opportunity to play. They particularly enjoyed the clowning weekend led by Sandra Pollerman, when among other skills we learnt invisible juggling.

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as a comforter.

And in Isaiah 12.1 The prophet says “In that day you will say “I will praise you O Lord. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid.”

Currently some of the puppets and their friends are fulfilling important jobs at St James.