

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**By Revd Kit Gunasekera**

### **Milkshake?!**

This time of year makes me think of milkshakes and thinking of milkshakes, takes my mind back to the very first time I volunteered at the coffee shop which was run by Holy Trinity Church Hounslow, where I became a Christian, aged 17.

The church was on a very busy high street, and the Coffee Shop would receive on average 220-250 customers a day. The Coffee shop employed two or three members of staff, and relied on an army of volunteers to function. On a Saturday, the volunteers came from one of the number of 'Homegroups' that existed, and I was part of the Youth Group. On the allotted day, I turned up to volunteer and I was given the job of a 'runner', which means I take the orders from the till and convey it to the kitchen and make any drinks. Quite early on, I received an order for a milkshake. I was give a very quick induction, and eager to please on my first day, dashed into the kitchen and searched frantically for the milk (did not think to look in the fridge!) and finally found the bottle. It was a very hot day, and the milk did not flow freely, and I wondered if it had gone off. After making the milkshake, I thought I would ask the manager to check it. She took a sip and nearly fell over. She demanded to know where the milk was. I took the bottle and gave it to her. She looked at it, and turned it around, so I could see the label - HELLMANN'S MAYONNAISE - Store in a cool dark place!

I have often wondered what might have happened if I had not asked the manger to check it! Little did I know at the time, that 5 years later I will begin a 7 year stint as a coffee shop employee and the last 5 years will be as manager! To my knowledge I did not poison anyone!!! That role led me directly to ordination, and I can see a lot of the skills of being a coffee shop worker being used as an ordained priest, although you should be weary if I make you a milkshake! It goes to show, that we should always read the label but also we musn't be put off by our mistakes, however big they may be. In the Bible God calls the most unlikeliest people to do things. Jesus disciples constantly failed to "read the label" when He was with them. If our instinct is telling us to pursue a particular line of work, or study, or vocation or interest, then its worth keeping going even when we get it wrong, even big time sometimes!

