

This is my eighth APCM here, and I'm happy to say my zeal in writing this annual report has not wavered in the slightest. I'd like to thank my fellow chaplains for a job well done in their particular spheres of interest taken on when Fr. Marcus retired. The admin and legal work are in great shape, and the worship and provision of an executable Rota has been, in my opinion, first rate.

I too have certain roles taken on after Marcus left: as the chaplain in charge pastoral care, digital media, and recruitment. And I have a pretty good idea what all that entails. By far the easiest of all tasks assigned to the chaplains, but in the interest of clarity, I shall repeat: I am the Chaplain in charge of pastoral care, digital and social media, and recruitment.

My interests for the immediate future of this chaplaincy are in being prepared for hiccups. And for the most part, these responsibilities of mine are in place primarily for hiccups, if and when they occur. Though I've never developed hiccup immunity, thankfully I have gotten better at dealing with them.

But some things just can't be handled on the spot, without prior preparation, and here I am talking about being prepared to roll out 'Lay led Services' if needed. The first time I brought up the notion of having these services in reserve if ever the need arose, the immediate response from others was the necessity of satisfying Safeguarding Requirements. Not exactly top of my list as a consideration, but an essential one all the same.

And that in itself requires more preparation than, 'this is something we can do when the need arises.' It is by no means the best arrow to have in our quiver, but I believe it to be a very good one to have ready and on hand, just in case. In all honesty my concerns here are purely situational, and have nothing to do with the theology surrounding the ministry of all believers.

In earlier times I'm sure this is something that could occur on the fly, but Safeguarding compliance has clipped our wings somewhat. We'll need to have people volunteer and trained to include the level of Safeguarding required. The rest is just the logistics of having prepared service leaflets disbursed throughout the chaplaincy in the event of hiccups.

But just as I'm not the Chaplain in charge of hiccups, I can also clearly see that once the idea is adopted, in practice it should be overseen by another, and I think the obvious choice would be the Chaplain tasked with worship and preparing the rota. But let me be clear that this is not a strategic shift away from what is being done now (which works perfectly well). Rather, it is to have the tactical ability to do something different if the need arises.

And so I am raising it at this meeting so that we can at least agree that it is something that we'd like to further pursue, and have in reserve, if and when the need arises. Other than that, I love the new car, and everything else is tickity boo. Jim+