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EASTER 2021

The Benefice of Hedon, Paull, Sproatley and Preston Benefice Bulletin



I recently read, online, the obituary of Tony Thornton- yes, he of Thornton's chocolates. It resonated with me for two reasons. Firstly, I love Thornton's chocolates and, secondly, my first husband and I very nearly bought a two-up-two-down in Belper when we got married, and just down the road was the Thornton's factory. You could smell the chocolate in the air!

As a young man, Tony had little choice but to join the still relatively small family firm along with his brothers, though he would have liked either to go to university or to become a pilot in the RAF. There's no doubt that Tony was a success in the chocolate business and, under his guidance as chairman, Thornton's flourished and was ultimately floated on the stock market to become the company we know today. His business mind and his management skills were very much to the fore. However, he always had a yen to lead a different life, and retired at 55 to do just that.

In his retirement Tony gave free rein to his artistic sensitivity and aesthetic appreciation, and he became a patron of the arts. His particular focus was music and theatre (his MBE was for services to music in Yorkshire) though he also supported the Charles Dickens museum in London, and devoted a lot of time to researching the author's life.

At first, I was sad that Tony had been forced into a lifestyle that wasn't really what he wanted, and felt that his early life had almost been wasted. Then, I read the responses to the obituary. There were loads of them, and just about equally split between those who appreciated Tony's work in and for the arts, and those who sang the praises of all he'd done to make Thornton's such a good employer and its chocolates so delicious. Some even hinted that the chocs didn't taste the same after he'd retired! It seems that neither phase of Tony's life had been wasted in any sense.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, because I think it illustrates an interesting point. Most of us think of ourselves as pretty simple and fixed in who we are, what we do and what we're like. But we all have aspects of ourselves that haven't yet flourished, and sometimes we don't even know they're there. God calls us to different roles and activities at different stages of our lives, and we can make valuable contributions to his plans, and to the joy of human life, at any time or any age. In many ways, the experiences and resources we gather during the early part of our lives can help to underpin our work in later phases.

As we emerge (soon, I hope!) from the Covid pandemic with all the related stresses and restrictions, our world will be distinctly different. Each of us has the opportunity to enter a new phase of life and to let a new aspect of ourself dominate. Tony let different aspects of himself dominate at different times in his life, and he gave pleasure to others in both phases. Which aspect is God wanting you to allow to dominate in our new and different world?

Benefice Services.

7th March

9-30am Holy Communion at Hedon
10-00am Morning Prayer at Sproatley
11-30am Holy Communion at Preston

14th March- Mothering Sunday

9-30am Morning Prayer at Hedon
10-00am Holy Communion at Sproatley
11-30am Morning Prayer at Preston

21st March

9-30am Holy Communion at Hedon
10-00am Morning Prayer at Sproatley
11-30am Holy Communion at Preston

28th March- clocks change

9-30am Holy Communion at Hedon
10-00am Morning Prayer at Sproatley
11-30am Holy Communion at Preston
6-30pm Evening Prayer at Paull

4th April- Easter Sunday

9-30am Holy Communion at Hedon
10-00am Morning Prayer at Sproatley
11-15am Holy Communion at Paull
11-30am Morning Prayer at Preston

11th April

9-30am Morning Prayer at Hedon
10-00am Morning Prayer at Sproatley
11-30am Morning Prayer at Preston
6-30pm Evening Prayer at Paull.

Holy Week.

Monday 29th March 5-30pm Evening Prayer at Hedon
Tuesday 30th March 5-30pm Evening Prayer at Preston
Wednesday 31st March 5-30pm Evening Prayer at Sproatley
Thursday 1st April 5-30pm Holy Communion at Hedon
Friday 2nd April 2-00pm Good Friday service at Hedon,
6-00pm Evening Prayer at Paull
Saturday 3rd April, 7-30am Easter Vigil at Hedon