

Retreat at Swanwick 2022

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.

Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.'

When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!'

And he said, 'Here I am.'

Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.'

Exodus 3.1-5



It really was good to return to Swanwick Hayes for our Reader and ALM Retreat.

Thank you to Warden Sally Buck and the 'Reader Board Team' who led us with a programme that was thought provoking and creative - with time for worship, reflection and prayer, as well as space for 'free time'. Some of us shared our 'Burning Bush' moments - mine still very vivid - was from over 30 years ago! It was good that Bishop Nicholas was able to be with us throughout

the weekend. On the Sunday he preached on a very challenging Gospel text!

On Saturday afternoon several of us did a short walk to Nearby Swanwick Junction, where the narrow gauge Golden Valley steam train was running.

Returning to the Dove Room at Swanwick several colleagues had been busy embroidering their prayer labyrinth or working on other artworks. I used a single strand to sew around my labyrinth. It may not be the prettiest but was nonetheless satisfying to complete. Any gaps or rough bits indicate where my steps may falter - as in life! The hardest bit was threading the needle!
J.M.



Saturday afternoon 'free time' walkers visited the 'Railwaymen's Church.



**Lay Ministry Retreat
2-4 September 2022**

Burning Bushes – stop, look, listen (and pray)

All sessions and times of prayer will be in the Derwent Room

Friday 2nd September

from 4.30pm
6.00pm
6.30pm
7.30pm
8.30pm

Arrivals with check-in from 5pm in Lakeside
Gathering and Evening Prayer in Derwent Room
Dinner
Introduction to the weekend
Night Prayer

Saturday 3rd September

8.00
8.30am
9.30am
11.00am
11.30am
12.45pm
1.30pm
2.00pm
5.00pm
5.30pm
6.30pm
7.30pm
8.30pm

Morning Prayer
Breakfast
Centering Prayer
Coffee
Burning Bushes
Lunch
Creative Voices
Free time (during which tea will be served at 4pm)
Gathering Prayer leading into...
Evening Prayer
Dinner
Quiz
Night Prayer

Sunday 4th September

8.30am
9.30am
10.00am
11.00am
11.30am
12.45pm

Breakfast
Morning Prayer
What if God was One of Us
Coffee
Holy Communion
Lunch and depart