

## **Rector's Report (submitted to Christ Church Eureka vestry on Monday July 27, 2020)**

On Wednesday July 1<sup>st</sup>, I began a video series on YouTube called "A Lamp Unto My Feet: How the Hebrew Alphabet Illuminates Psalm 119." The Daily Office lectionary assigns readings from Psalm 119 on Wednesdays, so I'm following the assigned portions for my teachings. So far, I've uploaded 12 videos (each approximately 5 – 10 minutes long), including an introductory video and two homilies. I plan to keep premiering new videos on Wednesdays until August 19<sup>th</sup>; and I plan to make at least 11 more videos on the remaining verses of Psalm 119 and the remaining letters of the Hebrew alphabet. All the videos can be viewed in order here: <https://deforestlondon.wordpress.com/hebrew-alphabet/>.

On Thursday July 9<sup>th</sup>, I met with the board members of the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars (through zoom) to help plan a special program for this year's Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Annual Meeting. The SBL meeting was scheduled to meet in Boston on November 20 -22, but it will now be held online (due to COVID-19). We decided to schedule an online AABS program titled "Revising Prayer Books with the Bible's Expansive Language for God" on Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM (PST). This online program will be open to the public. During the meeting, I was made an official member of the Executive Board of the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars.

On July 13 and 18, Ashley and I built our first raised bed in the front yard and set up most of our short white picket fence. We look forward to sharing some "Transfiguration food" with you!



On July 15 and 22, I participated in the online Lectio Divina study with Deacon Anne and Archdeacon Pam at 7:30 PM, followed by Compline Live from the Transfiguration House at 9 PM. A Christ Church Eureka "newcomer" Destiny Preston attended Lectio Divina and Compline and has been joining us for Sunday morning worship. The dean of the School for Deacons, Rod Dugliss, told me that he felt Destiny may have a call to ordained ministry. I have met with her on zoom and I concur with Rod's intuition. I will be her sponsoring priest for the Day of Discernment scheduled for September 12 from 9 AM to noon (on zoom). Rod invited me to lead the annual deacon's retreat at the Bishop's Ranch in January. I said I was amenable to the idea even though I'm not sure the Bishop's Ranch will be open to large retreats by then. Also, I said that I will be teaching a CALL class on Celtic Spirituality and English Mysticism during that time.

On July 16, I participated in a 4-hour long meeting with the diocesan Commission on Ministry. We explored ways that we can continue guiding aspirants through the discernment process with the help of the Standing Committee during this time of social distancing.

This month, a considerable amount of time and energy was put into arranging, compiling, and editing the online memorial service for my father Bob London. In lieu of an in-person gathering, I premiered the memorial service on YouTube at 2 PM on July 25 so many people could watch it together at the same time. I officiated the service, delivered the Eulogy, and prayed the Mourner's Kaddish. Pastor Brian Morgan (from Peninsula Bible Church Cupertino CA) offered the homily and a teaching on Psalm 23; and other friends and family offered readings, music, and words of remembrance. Paul Gossard recorded music from Merry Phillips (piano and organ) and David Powell (vocals). The service features images of the interior and exterior of Christ Episcopal Church Eureka CA, including the custom-designed Keggs Pipe Organ and drone footage of the installation of the new steeple cross. Although my father was never able to visit Christ Church Eureka in person, he supported the parish from afar and felt held by our prayers. You can view the service here: <https://deforestlondon.wordpress.com/2020/07/20/bob-london-memorial-service/>

On Sunday afternoon on July 27, after making several visits with the Birthday Brigade, I received an email from the Rev. Peter Rodgers, the vicar of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Antelope. He said that he and his wife watched our Morning Prayer service that morning and found it very moving and encouraging. Since he will not be offering an online worship service for his parishioners on Sunday August 2, he is planning to direct them to us. Peter is also the Director of the [Center for Bible Study](#), which works in partnership with the diocese to equip people with sound biblical resources. He wrote an endorsement for my book and asked if I would be open to teaching a course on the Gospel of John for the Center. I said I was amenable to that possibility as well!

