

The visit of Pope Benedict XVI , Prayer Vigil - Hyde Park London 18.09.10

The whole process began when I gave my name to Fr John, something along the lines of ...”If no-one else has a burning desire then I will do it”. It seemed then that no-one else did, and I waited further instructions. Having heard nothing further I began to become a little frustrated with the whole process, I had envisaged being part of a larger party travelling down together on a coach and for my role to be rather functional. It wasn't until I realised that it was down to me to get to Hyde Park and organise myself that it dawned on me that I needed to engage in the process. This is my experience and spiritual journey please interpret it in your own way and take from it what you will.

Firstly I would like to thank the ladies who created the banner; their needlework skills are second to none. I was content to be a 'tea maker' having recognised my limitations in this creative area very early on in life.

The arrival of the 'Pilgrim Pack' caused me to question what all this meant; surely I was just a 'Banner' carrier? A 'pilgrim'.....

(A seeker of the meaning of existence, who goes in search of the master who will enlighten them and help them to realise their own nature) Wikipedia 2010.

The theme of The Holy Fathers visit “Heart speaks (un) to Heart” was the motto that Cardinal Newman used when he became a Cardinal (1879). But who is speaking to whom? This simple statement carries for me multiple levels of meaning. It is said to reflect Cardinal Newmans understanding of what it is to be human.

“Where one is gathered in my name.....there also am I”

I was one of 80,000 people within Hyde Park experiencing very powerful emotions and the symbolism of the heart was not lost on any of us.....

We were the heart of the people we were one in community.

That day I heard stories of profound courage, the parents of Jimmy Missen the young man whose life was taken in a random act of terrible violence opening their hearts in forgiveness. A young man who concentrated all his efforts on acts of love and charity for those who's suffering had touched his heart. A man who was helped on the road to recovery from serious drug addiction by strangers, they showed him kindness and compassion without seeking reward, taking him to their hearts and nurturing him back to self belief.

These stories, The Holy Fathers visit and the messages given clearly say to me that we should unite in our faith and be ONE in the Body of Christ. That true communication comes from one heart speaking to another. What each of us says should come from the heart, the core of our being.

“Truth is the centre of our being and demonstrates the fruits of a moral life in communication with Christ” Magnificat 2010.

The message that I received; I am not a theologian and I didn't think I'd get it – but, I do! I feel it in my heart.....

“If I do not go within – I go without”

I need to search within myself to speak the truth or I will miss the opportunities to live everyday as the best that I can beWho I am....

For me it's about us turning to God and letting him enter our hearts, he knows each and everyone of us our faults and our failings. We have a responsibility to pass on the message.....

God has no voice but ours....

No eyes but ours...

We have a duty to live everyday to our full potential, always seeking the higher ground and moving forward in faith.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent this parish and now I am striving to Re-present myself to be who I am, to seek the truth and always to speak from the heart.

Sharon Burman 2010.