



Painful Providence

May I begin by saying a huge thank you for all the prayers and best wishes I have received over the summer since my accident. I has meant a lot to me and Sarah, and has been a great encouragement and, in the grace of God, has been fruitful too.

On 10 August, I had an accident, while wood carving with a circular saw. Despite wearing Kevlar gloves, the saw seriously damaged my left hand, shattering my index finger, severing through the bone of my middle finger and severing tendons and nerves in my little finger. By providence, my wedding ring saved my 4th finger completely. More extraordinary was that the initial assessed 'best case scenario' was to lose my middle finger & part of my index finger. In fact, the surgeons on the day, in a six hour operation, amazingly chose to save all my fingers, though with an ongoing reduced functionality the details of which are still to become clearer during recuperation.

At the moment, my wounds are still healing, and the 3 inch pin which is holding my middle finger in place is not likely to come out until the end of September. I have been formally signed off through September, although I will be doing some limited work from my desk as I am able. I won't be allowed to drive for 6-8 weeks, pending DVLA permissions in due course, and my hand is required to be elevated continually to aid recovery—which has its limitations—while weekly hand clinics give additional support therapy.

I am very grateful to Steve and the Ebbsfleet Pastoral Advisors team who have stepped up and filled in where possible. Thanks also go to Rod Thomas who is generously fulfilling some of my episcopal duties. We are having to review the diary bookings for this half term at least, particularly where driving was essential or overnights needed - but I hope that any cancellations can be rearranged soon as a priority.

Where is God's providence in all this? It is not just that 'things that could have been worse' - like it could have been my right hand, etc. It is not even in the irony of having last term driven 20k+ miles on the 17 roadshows round England, only to not be able to drive this term at all, for now! Providence is in the ever-necessary reminder that we are not only saved by God's grace, but we live each day dependent on it; and that our work, particularly in ministry, is less about how much we can do for God, and more about how much we live every moment with Him. Such providence may be frustrating or painful, but it is fruitful! As Paul put it: Phil.1:19-21 *Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.* Sometimes it takes God's painful providences to remind us that it is His work, not ours, that truly matters.



Philippians 1:19–21

I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.



Rt Rev Rob Munro
Bishop of Ebbsfleet

Bishop's Diary

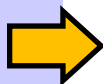
Looking back since July's newsletter, here are some highlights:

July
15 Zoom with Archbishop of York
planning 2025 mtg
House of Bishops zoom
16 Roadshow #14 Blackburn
17 Licensing in London
Meeting re ministry vocations for young
people
18 Roadshow #15 Cambridge
Archdeacon of Lambeth mtg
19 Alliance mtg, London
21 Confirmation, St Luke's Hampstead
23 Roadshow #16 Redditch
25 Roadshow #17 Lowestoft

27 onwards
Summer break

Rob's accident happened on 10 August in the final week of his summer break. Engagements since then have been cancelled, postponed or delegated.

If you were expecting him to visit your church this autumn & those plans have had to change because of the accident, we are deeply sorry. As described in the article opposite, we will do all we can to get him to you in the new year.



Would you like a visit?

A quick guide to arranging +Rob to come to your church.

The life of a Bishop is a busy one, particularly when your constituency is spread across the nation (& into Europe) like Rob's is. I look after his diary & I could tell you all about the late Sunday night journeys back to Cheshire after a Confirmation Service in Exeter or a licensing in Newcastle. He's regularly away from home for 2 or 3 nights a week, often in London in a Premier Inn or Travelodge. We try to limit the number of nights he's away from home, & make the most of trips by coinciding parish visits with MDRs & other engagements in the area.

Visits to Resolution parishes are really important to him. I see how energised he is on a Monday morning, even if Sunday night was a late one, returning from a church a long way from home. His calendar does get filled up far in advance - at least his Sundays do. He has none left available this year. However, we are taking bookings for the first half of 2025 & he would love to visit you!

If you'd like him to come on a Sunday, please bear in mind the following:

- Because of the number of churches in the Ebbsfleet constituency, he's not able to come more than once a year (& we're probably moving towards once every other year)
- Churches new to the network or where he hasn't visited recently are likely to be considered first
- Similarly, we will prioritise rearranged visits resulting from his accident
- The more notice & flexibility you can offer us, the more likely we are to be able to accommodate you
- Mornings get booked up before evenings. If you can invite him for an evening that helps us
- He's happy to come & (just) preach, but this is your chance to get him for Confirmations etc - so plan ahead!

All of the above remains true in spite of Rob's accident - he's looking forward to recovering.

If you'd like to invite him for 2025, drop me an email at admin@bishopofebbsfleet.org Dates before next summer are available now, invitations for Qs 3 & 4 will be held & looked at later this autumn.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you so much.

Steve Drake
Assistant to the Bishop of Ebbsfleet

Vacancies September 2024

*We are very happy to publicise vacancies to our network.
Please send a link to a web page rather than an advert or job
description, to admin@bishopofebbsfleet.org thanks!*

*Giving a clear indication of closing dates helps us remove adverts
in a timely manner.*

- [Vicar](#)

Christ Church, The Lye and Stambermill (West Midlands)

- [Youth Worker](#)

St Mary's, Basingstoke

- [Youth Minister](#)

All Saints, Loose (Maidstone)

- [Team Vicar](#)

Kidderminster East

- [Team Rector](#)

West Bolton

- [Assistant Administrator](#)

- [Church Operations Administrator](#)

- [Director of Music Ministry](#)

St Andrew the Great, Cambridge

deadline today!!!

Chaplain to the Bishop of Ebbsfleet

We are now looking for an experienced, paid, .6 part-time, Chaplain to support Bishop Rob and the Ebbsfleet network, as James Durbin's army responsibilities have limited his ability to support the team.

This flexible post supports the Bishop in engagement with churches, dioceses and the Church institutions.

It is part strategic and analytical – helping resource the Bishop in engaging with the wider Church; and part relational – supporting churches in practical advice and help in relation to their dioceses.

The ideal candidate should be ordained and experienced with a heart for pastoral ministry & mission, and an awareness of CoFE structures.

It may suit a part-time incumbent or someone doing further study.

Please pass this on to others that you think may be interested.

[Details are here](#)

or contact the office at
admin@bishopofebbsfleet.org
for an exploratory chat

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