JACKIE MANN

Revelation

I'm a West Country girl (you'll hear it in the accent!), who has just moved to Reading after 20 years living in the Midlands. Both are ironic given I am never happier than when I am by the sea, but I also love a glass of red wine, a log fire and lazy times with friends, good novels, 'camera walks' and I confess to being a bit of a coffee snob!

Somehow, I've just clocked up 30 years leadership experience in Christian organisations and the local church, (which seems very strange as in my head I'm not that old!). In every context it's been a privilege to be about developing leaders who nurture disciples that follow Jesus in every area of life and have a passion to go out with the good news.

After 14 years on the staff of an independent church in Warwick, at the beginning of 2023 I took up the post of Associate Pastor of a multi-congregation Baptist church in Reading. So I'm learning what it is to 'step up to the plate', in a different season of life and discover the dynamic of a worshiping community of 350 adults (plus children) who are hugely diverse in race, age and social background. 'L plates' on!

Over the years I've had the privilege of serving the Arrow Programme in a variety of ways and it's a joy to now be part of the team for ALP17.

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Associate Pastor

A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of Christ – Revelation 1:1-8

WHY REVELATION?

‘HOPE IS THE MUSIC OF THE FUTURE; FAITH IS DANCING TO THAT MUSIC IN THE PRESENT’

PETER KUZMIC

- Focus.

- Difficulties.

- Promise.

The Bible Project (https://thebibleproject.com/) produce excellent short videos introducing Bible books and themes. Material on Revelation can be found at https://thebibleproject.com/explore/revelation/.

A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of Christ – Revelation 1:1-8

THREE THINGS GOD WANTS TO SAY TO YOU

- Faithful.

- Alive.

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A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of Christ – Revelation 1:1-8

- Ruler.

- Why these three?

A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of Christ – Revelation 1:1-8

THREE THINGS JOHN WANTS TO SAY TO YOU

- Loves us.

- Freed us.

- Made us.

FOR REFLECTION

- How big is your vision of Christ at the moment? Is anything dulling it? What is helping to sharpen it?
- What glimpse of Jesus has been causing your heart to go 'wow' recently? How has this compelling vision of Jesus been fuelling your evangelism, transformation, worship and leadership?
- What blessing are you craving from Christ as he is revealed in our moments in Revelation?

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A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of the Church – Revelation 1:12-20, 2:1-7

HOW JEALOUS ARE YOU?

A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of the Church – Revelation 1:12-20, 2:1-7

JESUS AND THE CHURCHES

- Jesus knows the churches.

- Jesus warns the churches.

- Jesus challenges the churches.

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A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of the Church – Revelation 1:12-20, 2:1-7

A SIGNIFICANT LOSS

- The reality.

- The reasons.

- The remedy.

  ⇒ Remember.

  ⇒ Repent.

  ⇒ Redo.

A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of the Church – Revelation 1:12-20, 2:1-7

SHE'S READY

FOR REFLECTION

- Reflect on how you talk about the church or ministry you serve. Would people know from your words and attitude that you see her as Christ's bride? If Jesus is more jealous for her than we can imagine – how should this shape our attitude?
- The Church is to be a lampstand – so how brightly is yours shining? Does it need cleaning? What do you sense Jesus would say to her today?
- How's your heart?

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A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of a Throne – Revelation 4

A COMMON QUESTION – WHY?

'HOPE IS THE MUSIC OF THE FUTURE; FAITH IS DANCING TO THAT MUSIC IN THE PRESENT'

PETER KUZMIC

'The only sort of faith that is immune from this kind of questioning is blind faith, a faith that dare not look the realities of the world in the face, a faith that has to close its mind off to anything that threatens its creed. That is an irrational faith, a cowardly faith. It is a faith that fully deserves the contempt of the sceptic for it confirms that believers are pathetic weaklings who need a crutch of faith to limp through life. BUT real faith is not blind, real faith does not shut its eyes to the evidence that seems to contradict its convictions – it cannot do so.'

A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of a Throne – Revelation 4

THE NATURE OF GOD'S GOVERNMENT

- What picture does this paint of God?

- What does this tell me about his rule in our/my life?

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A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of a Throne – Revelation 4

- How does this cause me to dance?

A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of a Throne – Revelation 4

WHAT NEXT?

FOR REFLECTION

- Where do you need to ponder afresh the nature of God's rule in your own life? What questions do you have for God at the moment?
- Is there any area where you need to say 'if He is like this I will trust him… and I will "dance"'?
- What dimension of his government do you want to seal in your heart?
- Who comes to mind when you think of the cry 'How long O Lord'? – Pray for them.

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A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of Our Destiny – Revelation 21:1-14, 21:22-22:7

A GLIMPSE OF THE END OF THE STORY

'HOPE IS THE MUSIC OF THE FUTURE AND FAITH IS DANCING TO THAT MUSIC IN THE PRESENT.'

A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of Our Destiny – Revelation 21:1-14, 21:22-22:7

TWO DESTINIES

TWO IMAGES

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A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of Our Destiny – Revelation 21:1-14, 21:22-22:7

GOD'S COMMUNITY

- New location.

- He is there!

- 'No more'.

- Glorious.

A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of Our Destiny – Revelation 21:1-14, 21:22-22:7

FEEL AT HOME

- Provision.

'HOPE IS THE MUSIC OF THE FUTURE; FAITH IS DANCING TO THAT MUSIC IN THE PRESENT'

PETER KUZMIC

- Serving.

- Belonging.

- Permanency.

FOR REFLECTION

- If God's tactic for strengthening his people in the present is by showing them the end of the story, how much do you think about your destiny? How homesick are you?
- 'Hope is the music of the future and faith is dancing to that music in the present' – how well are you 'dancing'?

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