

## All aboard

Just had a very enjoyable afternoon aboard The Ladybird cruising the Great Ouse, courtesy of Margaret Blount and The Ladybird Boat Trust. Delighted to find it wheelchair accessible too. Being Ascension Day I couldn't help thinking how the headline for this season might well be 'All Aboard!'.

In the Churches Calendar we sit in that gap between remembering the mysterious Ascension of Jesus and the celebration of Pentecost. Christ has won an everlasting victory doing what only he was capable of. One fine day he will return to usher in the making of all things new. Meanwhile we are all called to get on board with what God is doing in our own day. This calling has varied depending on time and place. The calling of Christians in Iran being somewhat different to the calling of God's people in Australia for example. So what is our calling in twenty first century Britain.

This calling may of course vary a little between rural and urban, city and coastal. However, in our land and at our time in history I feel that we are called to be what the Bible calls 'the remnant'. A description of those who remain faithful when others ignore God's offer of friendship. During a time when too many turn their backs on God's goodness, whether through clear decision or misunderstanding, our calling is to 'remnant-ability'. A brand new word in the English language no less! Those whose main calling is to hold tight to the Gospel message and promote it as opportunity arises. When the tide turns, as it will, there is sufficient understanding still around to make revival swifter

Happy Ascendide to one and ail. May the Ascension of Jesus remind us that we have indeed answered the call to get on board. May we be encouraged to know that we are entrusted with the mighty task of keeping the Gospel message loved and cherished. Fit and ready for others to climb on board too. And what's more, accessible to all!

