JACKIE MANN

Revelation

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

Somehow, I've clocked up almost 35 years leadership experience in Christian organisations and the local church. (Which seems very strange as in my head I'm still in my early 40s!). 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.

At the beginning of 2023 I moved from an Independent Church in Leamington to take up the post of Associate Pastor in a multi-congregation Baptist Church in East Reading. It is a church family that is hugely diverse in race, age and social background.

It's a joy to be able to serve the Arrow programme and a privilege to enable us to start each day on Residential 3 in the book of Revelation.

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A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of Christ – Revelation 1:1-8

WHY REVELATION? (VERSES 1-3)

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

PETER KUZMIC

- It is from and about Jesus.

- It is written to people facing difficulties.

- It comes with an amazing 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 TELL YOU ABOUT HIS SON?

- 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 TELL YOU?

- Loves us.

- Freed us.

- Made us.

FOR REFLECTION

- How big is your vision of Christ at the moment? Is anything dulling it? What's helped sharpen it?
- What's causing your heart to go 'wow' so that evangelism, transformation, worship, leadership are flowing from a compelling vision of this Jesus.
- What blessing are you craving as Christ is revealed in our moments in Revelation?

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A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of the Church – Revelation 1:9-20, 2:1-7

HOW JEALOUS ARE YOU?

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

PETER KUZMIC

A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of the Church – Revelation 1:9-20, 2:1-7

JESUS AND THE CHURCHES

- He knows.

- He warns.

- He challenges.

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A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of the Church – Revelation 1:9-20, 2:1-7

A SIGNIFICANT LOSS

- The reality.

- The reasons.

- The remedy.

  ⇒ Remember.

  ⇒ Repent.

  ⇒ Redo.

A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of the Church – Revelation 1:9-20, 2:1-7

SHE'S READY

FOR REFLECTION

- Reflect on how you talk about the church you serve/attend – how much do you see her as Christ's bride? He is more jealous for her than you can imagine – how should this shape your 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?

- How does this cause me to dance?

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A COMPELLING VISION

A Vision of a Throne – Revelation 4

GOD'S GOVERNMENT IS ONE OF:

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 an area where you need to say 'if he is like this I will trust him'?
- 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

- With a new location.

- Where God dwells.

- 'Where some things are absent.

- That is glorious.

A COMPELLING VISION

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

FEEL AT HOME

- Provision.

- Serving.

- Belonging.

- Permanency.

FOR REFLECTION

- If God's tactic is to strengthen his people in the present 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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