

PASSING THE CUP

She had no problem; she'd rehearsed in her mind her first time was going to be perfect.

She had starched her cassock and it was brilliant white, gleaming. Amanda was now flying solo, however her mother, father, sister and the Bishop would be in attendance.

The vergers (Mr Hazel) had gone to town and buffed the floor, polished the silver and made the brass gleam like golden rays of sun. Mr Cooper (the organist) had practiced the hymns that Amanda him and the sermon was all prepared all she needed was the congregation to arrive on time and smile in the right place.

Amanda had been given Methringham as her first parish and she was determined to make it the most prosperous, well thought of in the area. The more senior of the congregation had taken it well that a single woman was now a deaconess and everyone had been so kind. Peter (a vicar from a neighbouring parish) had been her mentor and had been helping her with weddings, communion and funerals he had also perused her sermons before she gave them (or as she would say let them have it.)

She looked from the vestry and there they were "full house tonight Lord, thanks for that!" and off she went, perfect hymns perfect church (cold but perfect) perfect sermon. People began to come forward for the Holy Communion. Mr Hazels her first punter and he knelt in front of her and smiled "Body of Christ" she said in a lowered voice and she placed the wafer in his mouth. Amanda began to work her way along the line. As she did Mr Hazel began to choke, coughing like made, Amanda rushed for the cup shouting "blood of Christ" and thrust the drink at Mr. Hazels mouth and forced him to drink. Then he spat out all the wine (Or non alchaholic shlurr) all over her cassock. Amanda passed the cup quickly to the next person and lent forward to pat Mr. Hazel on the back but to no avail he would not stop. Then he stopped fell backwards and was silent.

Peter helped her prepare for the funeral she knew she would have no problem as she had rehearsed it in her mind.