

overheard at the extra-curricula café

Spiritual abdication

Cappuccino: You are looking more flustered than usual. Has it been a hard day at your happy ship of learning?

Latté: Happy ship? Very messy ship at the moment.

Cappuccino: Tell me about it. I might, of course, regret saying that.

Latté: It started before 8 o'clock this morning. Hannah, one of my NQTs was in tears.

Cappuccino: Oh dear. Classroom challenges?

Latté: Not at all. In fact, I have reason to believe that the sixth form are frightened of her.

Cappuccino: What was it that upset this fearsome young woman?

Latté: Church.

Cappuccino: Church?

Latté: Yes. You know, those places where Christians tend to hang out, especially on Sundays.

Cappuccino: Church, yes I am familiar with the concept. What was the problem with church?

Latté: Well, you have heard of Messy Church, haven't you?

Cappuccino: I have, although to me that's tautology.

Latté: Well, Hannah goes to Wacky Church.

Cappuccino: Also tautology.

Latté: You are not taking me seriously. Hannah's church leader, allegedly, announced that he was no longer the leader, but that the Holy Spirit was the leader.

Cappuccino: Innovative, but curious.

Latté: He also said that if any members have a complaint they should take it, not to him, but to the Holy Spirit.

Cappuccino: Ah. I see. So, since the Holy Spirit doesn't need a salary, then the church will now save some serious cash?

Latté: An intriguing point. I'm not sure that the Rev. No-Longer-Leader will see it that way.

Cappuccino: So basically he is abdicating responsibility, but not the power or the money?

Latté: Maybe. But it gets wackier.

Cappuccino: Ah, is this where Hannah comes in?

Latté: Yes. Hannah is a Sunday school teacher and has a Sunday school class of six year olds. She finds them a refreshing change from sixth formers.

Cappuccino: Sounds a good arrangement.

Latté: Yes, it works well, but the Rev. No-Longer-Leader has decided to dissolve Sunday school, and the children must remain in the service. He says that the Holy Spirit will enable the children to understand the sermons.

Cappuccino: Probably feasible if the Holy Spirit wrote and preached the sermons.

Latté: Well, I think that the Rev. No-Longer-Leader thinks that the Holy Spirit does, with a little help from himself, of course.

Cappuccino: Ah. So what did you say to Hannah?

Latté: I told her that sometimes you just have to watch whilst people make silly mistakes, and wait for common sense to return. I said to her, 'Meanwhile, get back to frightening the sixth form.'

Cappuccino: Good advice. Getting stuck into work can often be therapeutic.

Latté: Do you want to know what happened next this morning?

Cappuccino: No.

Latté: Not about the curious incident in the science lab involving the cheese sandwich?

Cappuccino: No. Not at all. Now drink up and get back to leading your school, making sure that you get a new consultant.

Latté: Who's that?

Cappuccino: God the Holy Spirit, of course. None better.

Latté: Priceless! ■