

Career and Life Re-invention

Speaker: **Stephen Bampfylde**, Founder and Chair, Saxton Bampfylde
CABE Guildford Network 20 October 2010

Stephen has worked a lot with people in 40's, 50's and 60's helping them to redirect their lives – because they want to, the world tells them to, the government tells them to change...

Saxton Bampfylde's mission statement – “We exist to change the world by changing leaders in interesting and important organisations and in so doing to create a community in which the people within it can grow to their fullest extent intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.”

Stephen is a part-time Benedictine monk - sense of community is important.

Benedictine vows:

- Obedience – listening to authority
- Stability
- Conversion of life - belief we are always in the state of becoming something new, always reinventing ourselves

Life is a journey – beginning, middle and end. Our journey is getting longer. We have a lot of opportunity to transform or sanctify life.

Vital stage of personality development formation around 14 or 15 years old. So often we then we suppress it early ambitions, hopes, dreams etc. Or we try to live out parents' expressed hopes and dreams. We constrain ourselves with our desire to be successful rather than be content.

It is good to take time and reflect on the life God meant us to have

Ask questions like:

How much money is enough? Make a choice 2 ends of the spectrum:

- “*Man who dies with the most toys wins*” (Gordon Gekko - film Wall Street)
- “*The man who dies rich dies disgraced.*” (Andrew Carnegie) – how much? At what point...? Set a precedent others are now following (Bill Gates)

Lots of opportunities to re-invent yourself, learn a new skill, give something back in a different way.

How to do it?

“*The unexamined life is not worth living*” (Socrates)

- Personal inventory (talents and achievements) – with a friend/trusted advisor, not good at self-review. See emerging statue out of the marble through the eye of the sculptor (CS Lewis - Shadowlands)
- Recall your adolescent hopes and fantasies – sport, music, art... things got repressed and put away. Better connected with friends? Better connected with God?
- Right work, right family and the belief in something greater (know about God).
- Where are you on the scale of individualism and solidarity – often a tension?

“*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*” (Isaiah 43:18-19)

Stephen's own version of the Benedictine rule:

“ To whom and to what are you committed?” Who does God want you to be committed to? What does God want you to be committed to?