

CURATE'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, the final preparations are in place for our Flower Festival at St John's. Looking at the work and creativity on offer I never cease to be amazed by how talented people are! To walk round the church, and see all the various displays illustrating our local history in imaginative ways is a feast to the senses. Of course, it was only last Christmas that similar talent was on display for our Christmas Tree festival.

The Parable of the Talents. (St Matthew 25.14-30) reminds us that the word 'talent', which we readily use now to refer to natural ability or aptitude, has come to us from that parable of Christ. In the parable, the 'talents' entrusted to the three servants, were very valuable amounts of money. Two servants were commended for making the most of the talents entrusted to them, and one reprimanded for failing to make anything of what he had been given.

The whole principle of Christian Stewardship is based on the understanding, brought out by this Parable, that we do not 'own' or 'possess' anything in our own right. All we are and have, and the whole world, is God's creation, which he entrusts to our care; our stewardship. We are ultimately responsible to God, as the servants were, to their master in the parable, for how we use our life, our talents, our time and our possessions. The parable also teaches us that God does not create us all the same, but gives us different gifts and abilities so that we can work together in unity for the benefit of all. Sometimes we may well feel others have all the gifts and we have none, but we need to start with what we have, and celebrate that. Perhaps, like the servant who was reprimanded, we have gifts, or abilities, we have neglected, or not yet even discovered.

Since Pentecost, many members of our congregation have been using their talents to take the £20 they have been given and 'multiply' it, and I shall look forward to seeing not just how much money has been raised, but also the ways in which this has been achieved. It is good to celebrate the ways so many people use their talents in the ongoing life of our Church to contribute to our shared mission and ministry in so many different ways. There is always room for more, and I invite each and all of us to offer our particular talents, whatever they may be to enrich our shared life, and to help work for God's Kingdom.

With my love and prayers,

Fr. Benjamin.