

# WEEKLY SERMON

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## Love where you Live

In a few weeks over a thousand Year 6 pupils from our church primary schools across the Diocese, will gather in the Cathedral for a service of celebration. As well as giving thanks for their journey through the education system so far, it will be an opportunity for them to look forward to the adventure ahead. Pupils will be reminded that they are, and always will be part of the big family of church schools and a child of God. God who loves them and has a plan for their lives.

The theme of the service is based on a song written by Chip Kendall, 'Love where you Live'. The lyrics of the song recognise that our world community is broken and encourage everyone to 'love where they live'. Now is the time to make the world a better place. Now is the time to take action 'you can make a difference'.

Bishop Philip will be challenging the children to think about their aspirations for the future and the call that Jesus has put on all our lives to be agents of change. Inspiring them with the words of St Paul to Timothy, 'Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young', speak out for justice, be a peacemaker and bring joy into communities.

This is a message we all need to hear. No one is too young or in fact too old to make a difference and be an agent of change. There is a line in the song that says 'the key to community is to show the love that was shown to us'. Ultimately Jesus showed us the best ways to love. If we show love to those around us in the ways that Jesus showed us how to love, then we will be part of creating a community that loves. This would quite literally change the world.

In the parable of the mustard seed, we hear that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a tiny seed that grows into an enormous tree where the birds make their nests. Seeds come in all shapes and sizes, but they always miraculously transform into something bigger. If we 'love where we live' even in the smallest of ways God will recognise and bless this love. The love we show will grow bigger than we can imagine. Where love is being 'planted' a community grows and people will want to build their 'nests'. Now is the time to take action 'you can make a difference'.

**Lisa Fenton, Adviser to Primary Schools and Academies and SIAMS Lead**

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES