

The other Sunday the Gospel reading was that of the Good Samaritan – *Luke 10: 25 – 37*. The story is a familiar one yet at our Bible Study Group the following day we spent some time trying to unpack the reading and to see its implications for us today. In our Diocese we seek through our Vision to be Witnesses, to make Disciples and Transform our Communities. For us as we studied this piece of scripture, we spent time unpacking the actions of the Good Samaritan and its effect on us as individuals but also our corporate responsibility as the Body of Christ. The very act of pouring wine and cleansing the wounds and then using oil, I have no doubt to soothe the pain, brings us into the sharp focus of our lives in action, how do we respond to those in need? In our Group we shared stories of how we supported those who needed, looked to us for very practical care. In the taking of the man to the Inn and giving the Inn Keeper money to look after the man we see how through our call to discipleship we can transform the lives of those around us and thus the communities we are a part of. The story of the Good Samaritan is of generosity, being generous to those we are called to serve among. Along the way there may be trials and tribulations, but it is the joy of sharing the good news that we shall make a difference to those whom we serve as Readers. I pray that as this summer rolls on, we may take some time to be refreshed for the task that God has called us to. To discern what God is asking of us, to know that in our response to an ever-generous God we make a difference to all those whose lives we touch. We live our faith by our deeds and actions it is I would suggest an opportunity to bring the living flame of the Gospel in our hearts into the hearts of those whom we meet on our journey.

In September we look forward to a visit from a group of colleagues coming from our link Diocese of Braunschweig. They will be with us from Monday 16th September – Friday 20th September. They will be staying at Whalley Abbey and taking the opportunity whilst with us to look at some of the exciting areas of ministry in Blackpool, Preston and Lower Darwen. We are hoping to plan an informal evening, tickets will be available for this, on one of the evenings during their stay so that we can come together and share. My thanks go at this stage to Margaret Ives for helping to plan and be our wonderful link officer with our colleagues in Braunschweig.

Our Admission and Licensing of our new Readers this year will take place on Sunday 20th October 3.00pm at which Bishop Philip will Preside and Preach. The service will take place at Lancaster Priory and we are grateful to them for hosting us on this very special occasion. Those to be Admitted and Licensed are: Vicky Bentley – St Thomas, Blackpool, Alan Johnson St Michael's, Much Hoole, Aaron McLean – Christchurch, Fulwood, Preston, Janet Parker – St Leonard's, Langho, Mick Whittaker and Gail Whittaker – Trinity Community Church, Accrington – please pray for them and the Parishes in which they will serve. (*Please note the date of the Licensing has changed to that previously notified*).

With prayerful best wishes,

Andrew