

I HAVE COME TO BRING LIFE. LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS!

A bit of a reflection for Sunday 3rd May.

I found it confusing to prepare for this.. I was drawn to focus on 'sheep and shepherds..... or maybe gates and robbers, arguments, pharisees.. all the things that make John so worth reading. This passage is part of a long discourse between Jesus and the Pharisees where they get increasingly angry and incensed at him, at his popularity, at his flouting of the rules and laws that they had built around the story of God.

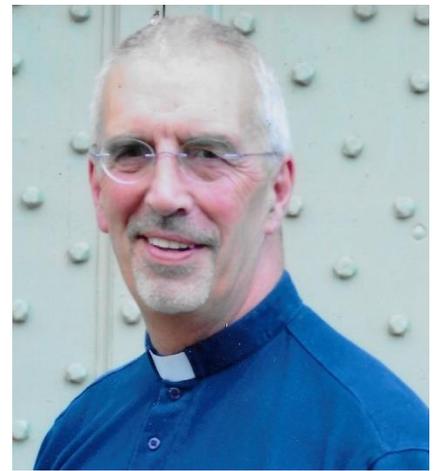
But the last verse, the verse that underpins our Diocesan life vision, 'I came that you might have life, life in all it's fulness', captures the heart of John's message The key to God's heart for everyone he has created.

In the previous two chapters, Jesus restores a woman who was caught in adultery... now that doesn't imply someone 'about whom there were rumours... a bit more than that... they actually caught her 'AT IT!'.. (strange then that it was her and not the man involved who was humiliated and dragged out as an example... (part of the 'made up rules that Jesus was challenging..)

Jesus brought forgiveness, hope and life to her. An empty and broken life, filled with the life of God.

Next, a man born blind is healed and the pharisees do everything they can to discredit both him and Jesus and in the middle of all the debate the man simply says,

²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"



Jesus brought, life and hope to him. An empty and broken life, filled with the life of God.

Have a look at the Acts reading. Remember it was only days before that these disciples were hiding away in fear of their lives, but, when the Spirit came, they found a new life. A life that affected every part of them. Changed their perspective on who they were, where they belonged, the choices they made.

They shared in worship, in meals, in learning and in giving. When someone was in need, they didn't just give a little bit of what they had to spare, they went out and sold stuff, stuff that had value, to make sure everyone had their needs met. Genuine life changing living. Following Jesus, meant they found Life.. in all it's fulness.

This strange and often difficult time that we are living through, also gives us, Jesus followers, and fresh opportunity to allow His spirit to breath new life into us. To find forgiveness and love, just like the woman, to have our eyes opened to God's love in a new way, just like the blind man, to spend time with God and his word and be open to his love for us and to be transformed by him into a community that has, shares and brings life in all it's fulness to a world that is reeling and struggling.

The needs around us are great at the moment, but, I think likely to be even greater when this time has passed as people try to re-build, re- start and re-kindle.



We are called to follow Jesus and with him in our hearts, bring Life, Life in all it's fulness.

Blessings as you live through this time and look to bring life to others.

Tony