



Hello All.

As I write this the sun is shining and it seems the summer has arrived! (I know I shouldn't speak too soon and I've probably jinxed it - Sorry!)

This summer sees a number of changes. At the end of last month we said Goodbye to both Catherine Drake (lay reader) and Rev Maureen Desborough (curate). Two very valuable volunteers who have moved onto pastures new. And this will mean changes, not least a reduction in the level of ministry we as a group of churches can offer and an increase in my own work load. But this is manageable.

Many people have asked me whether we will have another curate? This is very unlikely at this stage. Rev Mo was "home grown"; a member of the St Augustine's congregation who answered God's call to explore ordained ministry in the Church, as did Catherine, a member of the Swine congregation who explored lay ministry and served as a reader. But we can pray and ask God for the resources in terms of people and indeed finances that He knows we need. I once heard someone say that "If God is God, He is not stupid and will give us the resources we need to do His will" implying that if we don't find the resources to do something chances are its not God's will anyway!!!

And when you look at what we have achieved as a benefice over the last few years the resources God has given us are rather impressive. The Bell projects at Rise, Riston and Siggleshorne, the kitchen extension at Bewholme, the toilet at Ellerby, building and church yard maintenance, sound systems, the youth and children's ministry, regular coffee mornings in Skirlaugh, Riston and Bewholme which help to bring communities together and tackle isolation as does our pastoral visiting teams, to name but a few. I am so proud of what the small group of people in each of our churches have done towards building God's Kingdom in this place and maintaining our beloved parish churches: they are really punching above their weight and delivering beyond expectations.

Being Christians, we are all called to serve. Not just those of us in robes and dog collars and, whether you are a regular at church or not, God has a ministry for you, no matter who you are or even what you believe! So, what is your ministry? Is it to your family and friends, or to your neighbours or community or to a cause or campaign? Might it even be to your parish church? Whatever or whoever you serve (so long as you are not self-serving!) then ultimately that service is to God!

I'll leave you this month with a quote from the Narnia book, The Last Battle, by C.S. Lewis:

*But I (Emeth) said, Alas Lord, I am no son of thine but the servant of Tash. He answered, Child, all the service thou hast done to Tash, I account as service done to me.*

Yours in Christ,

Rev Andy Simpson

