



Benefice of St Mary's Chard, St Nicholas, Combe St Nicholas, St Mary's, Wambrook and St Andrew's Whitestaunton

Uncertainty there is an abundance of at the moment everywhere we look. I think we will all be really glad once the new President of America is confirmed, the ongoing saga of Brexit and the trying to ascertain if you can go here, there, or nowhere. For those who are fortunate enough not to spend Christmas on their own usually, plans are in abeyance, bringing a mixture of sadness, unhappiness or relief. The one, I think, most bizarre and very English item on a lot of people's minds is the Christmas Turkey. On the news last Saturday we were being urged to buy our "normal" size bird, eat it over a few days so as not to waste it and to freeze what we needed to, as I say only in England would you hear this. It is of course a plea to help the farmers and ironically perhaps the birds.

Jesus was trying to point out in his parable that we are being asked to take risks in our lives. There are three servants each entrusted with a quantity of money while the master is away. It doesn't say they should grow it but each servant knows that the expectation is that they will grow the property for him.

And in amongst all the upside down-ness of our lives the Lectionary offers us this story that Jesus told about the three servants, he is urging them to be ready always and active in our walk of witness, Jesus does not praise the dependable safe course of action taken by the last servant. When we hear the message of the kingdom it is a privilege and a responsibility. Its not just about using our gifts, it is about using the gifts that God has given to each of us to share the message of the kingdom with which we have been entrusted. It is a call to commitment and faithfulness, we are not called to be passive Christians, and we have been given gifts and abilities to be used in God's service it is no good for each of us to just finish up where we started.

Those gifts that belong to each of us through God's provision and love, maybe our wealth, our influence, our voice, our creativity, our steadfastness in prayer, these are to be used in God's service. Our presence as part of God's Church is important, because when Christians are together, they are a force for change in the world. The message of the Gospel becomes present right now in the world we find ourselves in. We dare not hide our contribution and just wait for the end of the age or of our lives or Covid. We have work to do, and we've been given the resources to do it. Even at the very tiniest we can answer when we hear those words: "Christmas is cancelled" in any situation with :No Christmas isn't cancelled because it is the day we remember Jesus coming into the world among us. Whatever it may be we do or say, it is as we dare to be disciples that we become those who help to bring the reality of God's reign into being with those around us in our neighbourhoods and our church.

And yes there are as Paul says times and season, times and seasons for taking those risks in faith, that we may be part of growing the faith and spreading the Word even in these times, as we wait on the Lord's return.

Rev Georgina