

## Vicar's letter – April 2019

### 'Our life Together'

#### Dear friends,

Thank you all for your prayers for those of us who have been on pilgrimage to the Holy Land recently. Knowing that you were with us in prayer reinforced that sense of being part of a big family. We certainly had a wonderful and inspirational pilgrimage, visiting the places in Jerusalem and Galilee where Jesus walked, taught, healed, was tried and condemned, crucified and buried and then raised to life and prepared breakfast on the beach for his disciples. There are so many memories and significant experiences to reflect upon.

To journey through the Easter events this year will carry a deeper sense of impact for us all having been there where these events happened.

As well as the moments of personal encounter that we experienced, we also had some times of great fun and laughter together. Of particular note was swimming (or should I say floating in the Dead Sea) and the picnic lunch and swim we enjoyed at the Gan Hashlosha national park to break up our journey from Jerusalem to Galilee.

The fun, the sharing at our evening devotional times, the singing and worshipping together as we read scripture in some of the most holy places created a bond of fellowship amongst the pilgrims reflecting a shared experience that was truly unique. And it was this sense of growing community which was perhaps the most enduring benefit of our time away together.

#### Church Together

At various points on our journey in the Holy Land we were conscious of other Christian groups also on their own pilgrimage. From all over the world people were gathering to share together in the events of the life of Jesus. As we sang the song 'This is the day' following the baptisms in the river Jordan, other nationalities started to join in singing the same song but in their own language. It was surely a foretaste of heaven – all nations, all languages joining together in worship of Jesus.

#### We are the church.

You don't have to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land to experience this bond of fellowship. We can do this every Sunday - as we meet together in worship or in our mid week Life groups.

#### Church weekend away 5-7<sup>th</sup> July 2019

This year we have a particular opportunity to deepen our sense of community by going away together for a weekend to Cefn Lea in mid Wales. Here we can deepen our friendships by taking time to enjoy the company of one another, worship Jesus together and celebrate our life in Christ away from the usual busyness of daily life...and no cooking or washing up either(!), just good food and plenty of it with lots of fun and being together, being refreshed by His Holy Spirit.

So if this appeals to you then why not join us? It is not too late to book in but act now and have a word with Jo Davies.

#### Can you enable others to join us who cannot afford it?

One of the joys of being part of our church community is that we can support one another. People are incredibly generous in this regard.

***'All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had' (Acts 4:32)***

Would you be able to support financially some of our community who can't afford to attend the weekend away? If you were able to contribute to a fund that would enable others to join us who at present cannot afford to do so, that would demonstrate our unique oneness in Christ. Please let Jo Davis know if you would like to follow this up.

We can be part of a small group (Life Group) and mid sized group (local Church) or huge group (the world wide church of God). The important thing is to enjoy sharing our life together. We are all pilgrims as the words of the hymn, 'Brother, sister let me serve you' express so well:

*We are pilgrims on a journey,  
And companions on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

**Stephen**