

Ramblings from the Rectory

The weather's been changing; getting colder. The 'lazy wind' has started blowing up; the wind that blows right through you, because it's too lazy to go around. Then I think, "I'd like some snow for Christmas". Then I wonder about all those that don't have a warm cosy house like mine. I wonder what the winter will bring. I wonder what is to come, but I can't do much about it.

I think of the cold of winter and I think of all that will be in need. I think of the homeless, and remember to support Shelter and Emmaus at Ditchingham. I remember the birds, and check the bird seed stores and fat ball bucket. I think of those going without and remember to put a little more aside for Foodbank. I do these simple things, knowing that there is so much more that could be done. There are so many other good causes. Indeed, if you went through a similar checklist you would have a different list, you might include the air ambulance, a hospice or a cancer charity. You might include an overseas charity like Christian Aid or Oxfam. There are so many good causes that the ones that pull your heart strings are probably absent from my very short list here.

I suppose the point is to care, and to act on that care.

As I sit in the warmth with frost on the window, I know I'll feel a sense of well-being. I don't feel guilty about those who have less. I feel a need to share at least something of the good that I have been given, not out of guilt, but out of a desire for more and more people to be able to share that sense of well-being. For me this is an expression of my faith. It also comes out of a sense of justice. The sense of justice for all, that comes from the Bible, where Jesus says that rejecting the poor, hungry, the thirsty, and those in need is rejecting him. A sense of justice, with the mercy to want to do something about this justice: The mercy to care.

For me it is all summed up in some words from before Jesus:

'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God' (Micah 6:8, NIV).

Those simple words are words that I can understand, and live by. They aren't too religious. They aren't too complicated. I know the call for justice. I know the need for mercy. I know also that the only way I can do both is by humbly walking with my God.

God bless,

Nigel