

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT 'Sacrificial Living'

'Therefore I urge you, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship' **Romans 12 v.1**

This month, we celebrate Easter, remembering the supreme sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. He gave His all for us. It is hard to fathom just how hard the cross was for Christ and His death is probably the most significant event in world history. So what is our response to this immense gesture of love? At Christmas, we sing *'What can I give him, give my heart'*.

When we know that we are truly and deeply loved, it affects our whole lives. We often respond by loving back and by showing our love with acts of generosity and kindness. We do things for the one we love and are thankful for the things our beloved does for us.

In our relationship with God, similar principles are at work. We respond to His love by giving him our love and our worship. We try to live our lives to please him and give ourselves to Him. Paul in the book of Romans, actually asks us to offer ourselves and living sacrifices in response to the sacrifice of Christ. Being a living sacrifice is about our life as disciples, discovering where we can best serve Him and serve others. This is a lifelong and transforming journey and of course not without cost. Cost to ourselves in terms of energy, time and money.

Over the years, I have found the problem with being a living sacrifice is that we try to wriggle off the altar and shy away from any acts of sacrifice. For the church to be living and vital and relevant, we need to learn how to give our lives sacrificially to our Lord. The church today is the body of Christ in the world and we serve him by offering ourselves, who we are, our gifts, our talents, our work and all our relationships.

St. Nicholas' Church needs all its members to be active in service and there are many opportunities available to serve.

In view of Christ's sacrifice for us, what can we offer to Him?

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Janet