

Vicar's Viewpoint October 2018

A Bigger Vision:

Jesus said "Go into ALL THE WORLD and preach the good news to ALL creation."
Mark 16 v.15

How big is our vision for the Church? How big is our God?

Sometimes they are both too small. The church becomes just our church here, instead of the huge worldwide church and our picture of God is way too small. We put God in a box to keep him under control because it's far too easy to let him loose.

The motto for our diocese in Liverpool is a 'Bigger Church making a bigger difference'. That is a challenge for us as we face the future. These things are happening this month which may expand our vision and may help us get a bigger picture of the church and our part in it.

Worldwide Church: we have adopted a new Church Mission Society link partner, Stephen Hatch. Like our previous link partner Dr Ruth Hulser, Stephen works in Tanzania in East Africa where there are few resources and a massive population. Stephen can help us see that God's church is much bigger than St Nicholas' Church. He is teaching maths in a seminary.

Nationwide Church: We are having a curate from another diocese on placement for nearly a month. Revd Julie Clarkson is curate in Barnoldswick. She comes from a long career in business, was ordained around the same time as Ravi, but has had a totally different experience of ministry to Ravi. She comes to us from a parish with two old historic churches and a reasonably new one. She comes to learn from us, but maybe we can learn from her.

Local Church, our church: On October 20th Revd Neil Short, the new vicar of St. Michael's, will lead a morning for our church, our Church Council and anyone else who would like to come on our vision for the future. What you will be doing after I have left? We begin at 8.30am with breakfast and finish at 12.30pm. Please let me know if you are coming.

Locally, nationally and worldwide God is working his purpose out, are we listening and have we got the big picture? Let us together adjust our vision and see just what God has in mind for our future.

Janet