

# GCSE RESULTS

As we explore together what God is calling us to do as His people at this time in this place I am going to explore some aspects of mission and ask that we would use this time to help us explore what God may be saying to each of us.

In order to do this we are going to use the acronym GSCE - but rather than General Certificate of Secondary Education we are going to think about the following

**God  
Calls  
Sends  
Empowers**

# Calls

As much as we like to make plans, read books and come up with strategies for growth, at the heart of a call to mission is that we are called to partner in God's work.

## Psalm 127

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Unless the Lord builds the house,  
the builders labor in vain.  
Unless the Lord watches over the city,  
the guards stand watch in vain.

However hard we try, regardless of all the books we read and plans we make, we must grasp that this is God's work. And in order to hear what God is saying we need to commit to prayer. Not prayer that tells God what to do, but rather prayer that allows us to share our hearts, opens us up to be changed and is prepared to listen.

## **ACTION**

Spend time this week praying about what we should be doing as Old Felixstowe Parish at this time. Come prepared to listen, without an agenda. Share your heart with Him, take time to be quiet, note what you feel God maybe saying.

The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.\*

It appears in different forms, and is variously attributed to William Temple and G.K. Chesterton.

“The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison

The mission is God's and the church exists to fulfil that calling. It can manifest this calling in a whole range of ways but we must keep at the forefront of all our prayers and efforts that this is God's calling that we are a part of.

There is a danger that as a church we can become concerned about mission as we see numbers falling and that we don't want to pass the church on in a shape that is less healthy than we inherited. We can become more concerned about keeping the show on the road rather than sharing the wonderful Good News of Jesus with those we meet.

### **ACTION**

Think about some people you know who don't know Jesus for themselves. How can you show and tell of Jesus' amazing love? Think about what you may say to them if they asked about your faith.

Throughout the period of the lockdown many people have noted how they have enjoyed hearing the birds sing - now although traffic noise may have dropped, the reason people have heard the birds sing is not that they were not audible before - it is instead that in not being so busy they have taken time to notice - to hear what has always been there.

One of our callings in mission is to notice what God is already doing in and through our community. Our job is to help people recognise the work God is already doing and to name it.

Our calling is not from the diocese, deanery or parish - our calling is from God.

### **ACTION**

Where have you seen God active in the world this week? Spend some time noting this and give thanks for what you have noticed .