

The service yesterday was strange but lovely and I'm so glad we are open for worship. Thank you everyone who has contributed to the preparation of the Church, making it look so beautiful. As we listened to some favourite hymns and followed the familiar pattern of the family service there were moments that were very moving, and they reminded me of the reason for Creeksia Church and the countless numbers of village churches throughout the country. These parish churches are there to provide a bastion of God's love and support for all. We who are privileged to know and love God, to be comforted by his presence in our lives and reassured by the comfort of his promises to be with us to eternity, we have a God-given task of revealing that knowledge of love and peace in our community. Knowing ourselves to be beautiful, beloved and blessed our response to God for that grace can only be to share that knowledge with those we meet. For we have received that gift of love and grace through the generosity of Christians throughout the ages, who have passed on the message from parent to child, from friend to friend, from victim to oppressor, from teacher to pupil and from parson to congregation, showing in their lives the power of God's love and letting it overflow into the lives of others. Now it has overflowed into our lives, are we to act as a dam, withholding that power from others? No. We are to act as conduits, pipes, carrying that love into the community and allowing it overflow, water the drought-weary souls of our friends and neighbours. This is what we, as Church, are called to do.

Michael Ramsey, who was the 100th Archbishop of Canterbury, (1961-1974) prays in these words the prayer of the church

Most merciful Father, you have called us to be a caring Church, reflecting in our lives your infinite care for us your children.

Help us to fulfil our calling and to care for one another in an unselfish fellowship of love; and care for the world around us in sharing with it the good news of your love and serving those who suffer from poverty, hunger and disease.

We ask it in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen

Perhaps, as we still struggle with the new-normal, we can spend some time considering what we are called to do in this work of the Church. It may be the tiniest act of compassion and thoughtfulness that will make a huge difference to someone we meet. We do not have to think we are called to make the great gestures – we just have to allow God to guide us to the place and people where we can do the most good, just by being his beloved children.