

St Michael-on-Greenhill, Lichfield and St John's Wall

The Anglican Communion Five Marks of Mission

Wednesday April 28th April

The second Mark - To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

Rt. Rev. Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield

Bishop Michael writes...

The reading I would like to focus on for next week is 1 Corinthians 3.1-11, preferably in the NRSV translation. This dwells particularly on the 'nurture' of 'teach, baptise, nurture' in the 2nd Mark of Mission; to set the scene, and if they have time, people might also want to read 1 Cor 1 and 2, noting 'teach' in 2.1-10 and 'baptise' in 1.10-17. If there is one verse in 3.1-11 on which I would particularly like them to dwell it is 3.9b; if you wanted a title for the whole, it would be 'God's field, God's building'.

The collect for the week

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

1 Corinthians 3.1-11

3 And so, brothers and sisters,[a] I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, 3 for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? 4 For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. 9 For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

The collect for Pentecost

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen