

Tuesday 13th July 2021

Haggai 2:4 *“But now be strong, O Zerubbabel,’ declares the Lord. ‘Be strong, O Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the Lord, ‘and work. For I am with you,’ declares the Lord Almighty.*

Ephesians 4: 11, 12 *“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”*

The prophet Haggai came to prominence after the return of the Israelites in 538 BC to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon. They had been allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild Solomon’s great temple which had been destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. Work on the temple started but tailed off as people were distracted into building their own houses. Haggai delivered the Word of God to the Israelites saying they had lost their sense of priorities. *“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house (the temple) remains a ruin?”* Haggai 1: 4

We all have good points and skills and it is right we should use these attributes to benefit others and ourselves but always these acts should address first the need of promoting God’s Word and the furtherance of his Kingdom.