

God Loves Us

- Just as the shepherd is not content until he finds the one lost sheep—or the woman until she finds the coin or the father until his wandering son returns home—so it is in the heart of God

God Is Pleased When That Which Is Lost Has Been Found

- Just as the return of the son brought joy to the heart of the father—as the shepherd rejoiced when the lost sheep is found or finding the lost coin brought such joy to the woman so there is joy at the heart of God when the lost is found and restored to its rightful place.
- Whatever the reason, we all need to find and be found by God.
 1. A need to be forgiven
 2. A need to be rescued
 3. A need to discover the father's purpose for our lives

The Parish of Cannock and Huntington *Creating Community with Christ at the Centre*

Lent Course — The Prodigal Son

An introduction—Ash Wednesday

Looking at the 'Lost Parables'

Luke: "this man receives sinners and eats with them"

- Jesus addresses the parables to the Pharisees who were complaining about his fraternisation with sinners
- The Pharisee was as much a sinner as the outcasts of society. Their sin displayed itself in a different way.
- The sins of the flesh and the sins of the spirit
- Through these parables Jesus sought to teach the Father's attitude to lost humanity.
- Our Lord did not come to condemn—he came to reveal the true attitude of God to fallen nature—a fallen nature we all share.

We Belong To God

- Just as the sheep belonged to the shepherd. The coin to the woman—so the son to the father (often disputed by those who say 'No-one owns me'.) c.f. 1 Corinthians 6:20 "you are not your own you were bought with a price"