

We have this treasure

I wonder what you treasure? I have a box of all the birthday, mother's day cards and notes my children and grandchildren have given me. I have a scrap of an old Christmas card with a shopping list written on it in pencil by my mum, who died in 1996, and a wooden carved toast rack that my dad carved me on my first weekend back from Preliminary Training School in 1976!.

Jesus was telling his disciples about the kingdom of God and, as he often did, he used a parable, a story. He told them about a man who found treasure in a field, and about a merchant who hunted down the finest pearl that he could. Both of these men then sold EVERYTHING they had to own the treasure they had found. EVERYTHING? Where did they live? sleep? how did they live? Was their treasure to be held, looked at, locked away or sold to buy yet more valuable treasure?

So here the Kingdom of God is compared to men looking for treasure, finding it and giving all they had to own it. So is it the looking for, or the finding or the giving up everything that is the Kingdom of God? What was Jesus doing telling these particular stories?

I think it must be about the looking, the finding and the giving up everything. The Kingdom of God is simply where God is King - so everything that God says goes...he rules in this Kingdom. I think I have spent a lot of time in my life looking for this treasure and at times finding it, but to live in it has sometimes meant giving up something. I do the job I do, part of which is Messy Church, because this treasure is so valuable and means so much to me that I do not want to hide it away but share what I have found with everyone. I love this upside down kingdom precisely because it is upside down and initially seems to make no sense - it is nonsense! The teaching of God that Jesus brought his disciples and we read about, is crazy on so many levels! For example, loving those who are unloveable or have treated us very badly, giving with reckless abandonment even when you don't have much are both hard and ridiculous!

There is more of course BUT in my opinion, his teachings are the only hope of our troubled, broken world. This hope started with a motley bunch of 12 men 2000 years ago and has grown and spread and still today all over the world groups of imperfect people continue to look for this treasure, and continue to share it....even their lives. We have this treasure - a little of it. We have the wonderful privilege of freedom to hear and talk about God, Jesus his son and his teaching and talk about how we might live the way he says. It is treasure - rich beyond measure, priceless, because it gives hope when nothing else can and light in even the darkest places. *Liz*

Preston Community Event - Preston Park on Sept. 15th was a big success and will be repeated next year. Thanks for all who supported it.

Dates for diary

Shoebboxes for the Blythswood Organisation which are sent at Christmas to Eastern Europe will be collected from the church on Nov. 9th. We would love to send 100 at least this year. If you could fill a box, that would be wonderful. For more information speak to Liz or Des - or email us.

Tattenhams Market at St Mark's, Saturday, Oct 6th from 10-1pm.. Start buying early for Christmas and enjoy coffee and homemade cakes in our very well priced coffee shop.

Messy Munchkins for pre-schoolers and their carers, every Tuesday from 9 until 10:30. Bible based theme with sensory play. We end with tea and toast.

Gin Night Oct. 12th 8pm - ticket price £20 from Liz and Des.

Community cinema is back. Held in the church itself every 2 weeks on a Sunday evening. Due to licence conditions we are not able to advertise the titles of films so if you would like to know the film title of future films send your email to cinema@stmarkschurch.me.uk. There is no admission charge although we appreciate donations. At the interval enjoy free tea or coffee and opportunity to buy popcorn and ice cream.

Next **Messy Church on Tuesday Nov 6th** when we look at Remembering

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