

## 7 April 2024 Acts 4:32-35 Believers share what they have, and 1John1:1-7

Two common sayings to start with: when someone says to you, **I give you my word**, how does that make you feel?

And what about, **he's finally seen the light**?

Christmas... Easter... August bank holiday ... Christmas ... Easter ... do our lives revolve around the bank holidays? Presents, parties, time to relax and spend time with family and friends?

Or in Church, Christmas, the time for Jesus to be born, Easter, the time for Jesus to die ... and live again! A real resurrection, life everlasting and an undying promise. God gave us his word, in every sense, the promise, the flesh and blood, and the sacrifice to cancel our sins.

Let's have a quick look at the beginning of John's gospel.

*'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.'* Here's God's word, his promise, and it **was** made flesh. He is called Jesus. Our sweet, vulnerable baby Jesus at Christmas, our strong, forthright, compassionate, challenging, suffering, dying and rising again Jesus at Easter. This is a traditional Christmas reading, and how it resonates with today's reading as well.

It goes on to say, that John the Baptist came as a witness to the light.

This is John the Baptist, Jesus' second cousin, who was declaring that the Messiah was on his way, urging people to ask forgiveness and accept baptism. Just imagine, plunging into the river and then bursting out of the water into new life, breathless and forgiven!

Jesus comes to be baptised and John recognises him. John sees that Jesus is indeed the true life, true God, true light, to follow, to guide, to give life.

What sort of light is this light of God's? A laser to read the barcodes of our hearts, detect our Judas moments, cauterize our errors and plant new joys in our souls.

And so we can **see the light**: we can see glimpses through the glory of dawn after darkness, the warmth of the sun after winter, shining blindingly out of the Bible, God's word, and we can begin to understand.

In this way, we can 'enter into fellowship': a funny Churchy term, isn't it? Think of it as being together, being family. The reading from Acts gives us a glimpse of how it works: living as a community, getting to know each other, sharing, supporting, looking after each other. Loving each other, reflecting the light onto each other and sharing God's love.

I wonder if that sounds like a nice idea? Would you like to be part of a caring, loving group like that? We have several small groups which meet during the week to study the Bible, talk and pray together, and do all the other stuff too. Talk to Revd Jon if you'd like to know more. It could be a blessing for you and you could be a blessing for others. I give you my word!!

**Fleur Pelly**