



Dear All,

*You have been faithful with a few things;
I will put you in charge of many things.
Come and share your master's happiness!
...For those who have will be given more,
and they will have an abundance.*

(Matthew 25: 29)

One of the highlights of last week was our gathering outside the church building to mark Remembrance Sunday. Once I announced that we are allowed to sing one song together, in addition to the national anthem. I looked at the people's faces, to find joyful eyes, despite the face masks, that tell this is good news to be appreciated and celebrated. Who could believe that singing a single song together could be a cause of so much joy!

This significant moment and some other conversations during the last week made me think of our choices of how we could perceive our current situation. While many of us would focus on the scarcity and deficiency of the present time of lockdown, others would choose to grow in their awareness of the small yet extraordinary things that we do have, here and now. It appears that these choices are unavoidable, and our selection of them will make all the differences.

This Sunday, we will be looking at Matthew's Gospel 25: 14-30, where Jesus in "the parable of the talents" is showing to us the consequences of those two choices. We are either **dwelling on how little it seems we have and are allowed to do** or **celebrate how much we have been given already and are able to do**. Knowing that our God is the God of abundance, we are encouraged to be more aware of this abundance around us. We experience life as scarcity, but that's not because



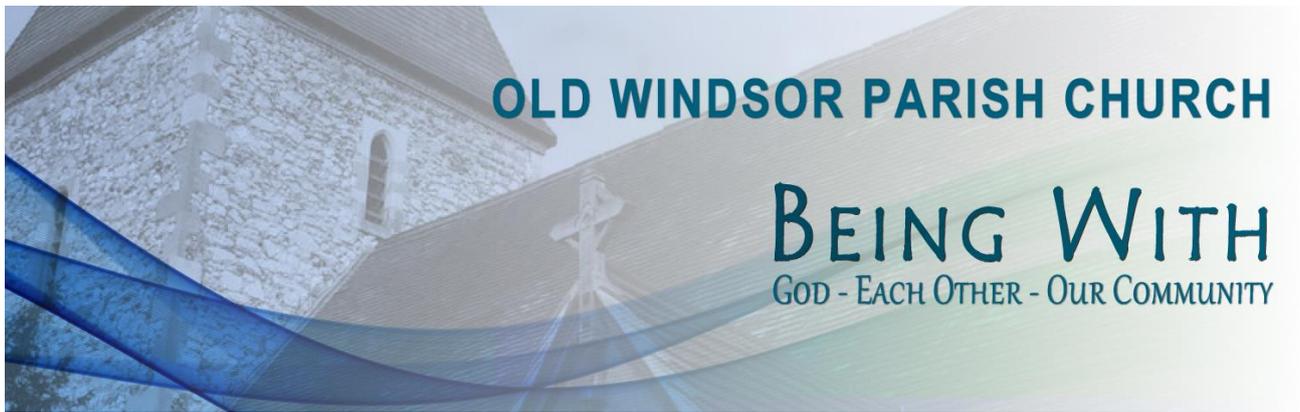
God hasn't given us enough, which we're always tempted to think, but because, out of fear, we haven't notice with appreciation and put to use the things and the gits that God has already blessed us with.

I dare to believe we live in *a Kairos* time, with its significant challenges, confusion, and great opportunities. At times like this, it always looks like too little around to celebrate, too little wine there to keep the party going. However, it is only when the ordinary wine runs out, then a new abundance of excellent quality wine will come into existence, only as a gift from God who gave us everything when he gave us Jesus, and with Jesus comes everything!

What if all the abundance we hoped for already exists around us within what is seemingly a time of scarcity? What if we decided to listen to the opportunities of the present time than its fears? What if what we long for is already given, already here? Will we still hide our gifts in a hole in the ground, or go ahead, trade with whatever we have, as never before, to find our dwelling in the divine realm of abundance and joy?

Looking ahead to the coming weeks

With the lockdown due to end on 2nd December and an expected return to regional restrictions, we are continuing to plan for Christmas, hoping that services might resume in the Parish Church during Advent. Please continue to be in touch with one another through the telephone, email and social media. And do keep an eye on our website page as we follow the Archbishops' call to make this month of lockdown a month of prayer. Online services will include Morning Prayer on Sunday morning, with Evening Prayer on Thursdays at 7.30pm (both over Zoom).



*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, now and evermore. Amen*

Yours in Christ,
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