

CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

Have you ever noticed how many aspects of social media tend to be viewed with a certain amount of scepticism and even animosity? I suppose it's not surprising really, anyone can post anything they want so, scandal, outrage and "Fake News" often seem to be the prevalent order of the day. However, every so often a "Good News" story will appear that restores your faith in humanity and makes you realise that it is worth keeping your Facebook or Twitter account.

One such story appeared this week and seems to have gone viral for all the right reasons. It told of an 11 year old on his first day at a new school in Liverpool who managed to board the wrong bus home. With no money, phone or friends around him all he could do was sit and get progressively more worried as he found himself getting further and further away from where he needed to be. That was until a 15 year old lad noticed him sitting on his own looking very upset. Now, to be honest, in many schools these older pupils will have nothing to do with the new year 7's so the fact that his plight was noticed in the first place is quite unusual, but then this lad did something really special. Not only did he stop the bus so the boy could get off quickly, but he also gave him £10 out of his own



pocket for a taxi home, then two of his friends found the number of a local cab firm, phoned for a taxi and accompanied him safely back to his parents. As if that wasn't enough, the Taxi driver waived his fee. I think you would agree that this was the sort of story that we all like to hear about.

It is a story that revolved around one person in need and four very special "Hero's of the hour" who came to his aid that day. The one who noticed the boy and stepped in, the two who stayed with him and the Taxi driver who drove him home free of charge. Each one was willing to give him their attention, their time, their money and their care and concern.

Well all, this got me thinking (Surprise surprise), indeed I thought of two things. How good are we at noticing when someone is in trouble? And if we do, are we always willing to step in and help? How generous are we in being prepared to offer our attention, time and money to those who need it?

Also, what sort of news do we like to hear about and pass around to others the most? The scandal and Fake News that often clutter up our newspapers or in boxes or the sort of stories that highlight and applaud the selfless acts of others?

We have another “Good News story” which we try to tell in our Churches and in the lives of all those who join us there. It’s the story of someone who not only noticed the perilous plight of all humanity but was prepared to step in and do something about it – even though he knew it would involve giving up his own life. It is a story that has brought comfort, courage, peace and hope to countless people throughout history. It is a story that is rooted in love and it is a story that has changed and enhanced the lives of all those who have been prepared to listen to it and accept it.

We would love to tell you more, so please feel free to drop into any of the village churches or contact me or any of the other church leaders at any time.

With Blessings for the coming month

hane



Thanks to digital technology, the vicar never got the name wrong again

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The final deadline for the submission of material is the 14th of the preceding month. Acceptable formats for articles are MS Word, MS Publisher or text files. PDF files can sometimes be used, but as their proportions cannot be altered without distortion, they can’t always be used. Suitable picture formats include: Jpeg, BMP, PNG, GIF, etc.