

# Vicar's Blog

March 2017

Making a difference

In our Church Hall each week on Thursday afternoons between 2 and 4, there is a gathering for Tea and Chat. I pop into this event when I can, staying for a while to enjoy the conversations and to get to know people. Thanks to the commitment and generosity of time given by the people who run Tea and Chat, we are able to offer a place and time for coming together in friendship. For those who spend much of their time alone, Thursday afternoon is an opportunity to be with others to listen, share and laugh. It is a time for tea and for chat in community and fellowship.

It is also an opportunity for activity and usually several people can be found knitting. Sometime that knitting is for a friend or a new baby and often the knitting is for other causes: knitting baptism teddies as a gift from the church to children on their day of baptism; beautifully crafted pieces of knitting with beads and fabric attached, an offering of comfort, to held, touched and fondled by people struggling with dementia; red and white strips to form part of a knitted chain to encircle Kingsholm Rugby stadium – part of a fundraising initiative for Footsteps 4 Finlay. Recently one person at Tea and Chat told me that she seems to win a lot of raffle prizes and asked if I thought the Foodbank would welcome the prizes of sweets, chocolates that she often wins.

Each of these individual activities or acts may seem small, yet each is a selfless act of giving. We all have the potential within us to use the gifts we have to support and enable the lives of others.

Ash Wednesday, on 1st March this year, marks the beginning of Lent. All too often we fall into the trap of think that during Lent we should give up something. I offer to you the example set by so many of the people who come to Tea and Chat – each day this Lent – find something you can take up and offer to others: your time; a listening ear; a kind word, some practical help; a gift .....

'We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us' (Romans 12.6). May we each find ways of using our gifts cheerfully during Lent to help make a difference to the lives of others.

*Gwyneth*