

2019-01-20 ... 8am Communion ... Revd Canon Judy Hunt

**1 Corinthians 12: 1 – 11**

**'For the Common Good'**

One phrase in particular struck me from our epistle **1 Corinthians 12 verse 7: 'to each is given the manifestation of the spirit for the common good.'**

St Paul is writing about the use of gifts in worship ... but the sentence would 'hold good' for any gifts we have: **'to each is given ... for the common good.'**

That's a wonderful image of selfless, self-giving corporate life ... but it is also quite a challenge!

It's easy to drift away from this understanding: all we have is a gift from God ... and so all we have is to be used for the **common good.**

So the fact that we've been born into a relatively prosperous nation – is a gift to be used for the common good – the good of all the world. This has a bearing on so much ... including, for example our attitude to climate change and to Brexit expectations!

And – in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ... whatever 'gifts' we receive through being Anglicans, or through being members of St Alkmund's ... those gifts are to be shared with other churches ... to be used for the **Common Good.** We try to do that with our building, with involving other churches in the opportunities we have access to: schools, civic services and so on ... but maybe there's more to both give and receive.

Let's now have a few moments of quiet to reflect, to listen to God ... how might we be able to use the gifts he has given us **for the common good?**