

2021-08-22 ... 8am Communion Sermon ... Revd Canon Judy Hunt

John 6: 56 – 69

'Recommending Jesus'

Prayer ...

What, I wonder, was Peter's tone of voice and inflexion? How did those words sound?

'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life'

Were they tentative ... or even despairing – in the light of the earlier verses that many simply couldn't cope with what Jesus was saying about being the 'Bread of Life'?

Or were they in a reassuring tone to Jesus?

Or a rallying tone for the other disciples who had – so far – not walked away?

I suspect that some of Peter's intent was linked to that rallying call. And it made me wonder how often we recommend people to – in effect – go to Jesus ...

To keep in touch with what's going on in the town, I've fairly recently joined a Facebook page to do with Whitchurch. Most of the things – posts – that are added day by day are requests – requests for recommendations:

Where's the best place to eat?

Does anyone know someone who could lay a patio?

Who might provide live in care for my pets?

And so on ... often there are 10 to 20 answers – people making recommendations from their own experience.

Now I'm not going to suggest that when anyone posts, for example, about finding a reliable plumber – we reply – you could pray about it – ask Jesus ...

But I do think that in every day conversations – as well as on Facebook – there could be times when there is an answer that points to Jesus – and that he wants us to make use of those opportunities.

(Revd Judy then told a Vet student's advice story when she was a Veterinary Lecturer ... a bright student asked her advice about what kind of veterinary work to do. They chatted for a while and he asked her how she had decided? This gave her a good opening to speak about praying, and God's direction.)

Let's ask God to give us such opportunities and to give us the words to make good use of such opportunities.