

**2025-05-06 ... 6.30pm Evensong Sermon ... Mrs Jane Rylands**

**2 Chronicles 35: 1 – 6 and 10 – 16; Luke 22: 1 - 13**

One of my favourite things to ask someone I've just met locally is – how did you end up living in Whitchurch? To answer, someone has to tell their story and it's fascinating!

Liturgy based churches are extremely good at telling the story of God – everything we say or sing reflects the scriptures – from the font at the back of the church (the beginning at the beginning) to the table at the centre of our view – the crosses, the windows – it's all about telling the story.

**In the Old Testament passage** – which tells of a time when part of the story had been forgotten – the Hebrew people were home from their years of exile and they are allowed to rebuild the temple - King Josiah gives the instructions to rebuild – in the ruins they find the scroll which tells Moses' story – the King commands that the Passover ritual is re-enacted once more and he provides thousands of sheep and goats and some cattle for the sacrifice and for feasting. This telling of the story together renews them a community who remember how God saved their people.

**Jesus took the Passover ritual and made it his own** and here at St Alkmund's we retell it each week – with the symbols of the bread and wine, and enacted around a symbolic table. What holds us together is that we share the same story and it is by the telling and the hearing of the story of God that other people are drawn into Jesus's world.

And as people of God, our own particular part in the ongoing story is our best way of sharing the Good News. How has knowing Jesus affected you? How has it helped you, changed you, empowered you? Telling your story – why you dedicate time to help at the foodbank – why you go out of your way to help someone that you don't really like very much – is a way to talk about Jesus in a way which will help someone else discover God's work for themselves. Being ready and willing to share our own story will set us up well to represent Jesus to those we meet.

Amen