

Thought for Sunday 28th June

Matthew 10: 40-42

It's a little thing, isn't it – the gift of a cup of water. But think for a minute. Would it seem quite such a little thing in a hot, hot country where you had no access to a tap?

I was reminded of this passage in the hot weeks of lockdown when people from London churches were talking about the plight of the homeless. 'I have never seen people here thirsty before' said one. It is a horrible thought, the idea of people suffering agonies of thirst in our own developed (and often rainy) country.

In today's short Gospel passage Jesus emphasises the importance of welcome, of recognition and of sharing. He makes it clear that this is what his ambassadors can expect. I am sure he expected if for them not because anyone would have known who had sent them, but because he believed in the essential loveliness of humankind.

We humans are, after all, made in the image of God. So – even if we bury that image very deep under piles of rubbish – we must all have a core of goodness and generosity, a heart that wants to give a cup of water (at the very least) to refresh a tired and thirsty fellow human.

Actually, what I think Jesus is telling us – who read these words so many centuries later – is how he expects *us* to behave. He wants us to be loving and generous, careful of each other, anticipating each other's needs. It's quite a challenge.

This coming week, what can we do, what can each of us give that is the equivalent of a cup of water to gladden another's heart?



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