

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May – Love, faith and courage in our lives

Love, faith and courage – great values to have, and wonderful to hear the chaplaincy team from school speaking so clearly about them.

But of course for all those at the school – and for everyone else of course – the challenge is to make sure those values don't just stay on the slogans and posters, but actually get lived out in our lives.

We often speak about love in church. After all, as we have heard, Jesus said *love one another as I have loved you*. Here in church we thought about that last weekend as we thought about the coronation service and the King's promise to serve the nation. Service can be seen as love in action. Caring for others, looking out for their needs and helping to make them feel special. Jesus is a great example to follow here as he showed love to everyone, even those people others would have nothing to do with.

We often talk about faith too. We all on a basic level have faith in God. In once sense that is why we gather here week by week. But faith is not just that passive belief that there is a God, its also a much more active trust in God as we live our daily lives. Knowing that he will be alongside in everything we do; knowing that he will protect us and encourage us; that he will weep with us when we are sad and rejoice with us when all goes well; that he will never let us down. Later this morning we have a baptism or christening service here in church. The family will declare that they believe and trust in God. That their faith moves from the passive to the active. That it makes a difference in their lives.

And courage. Maybe we don't think about this enough. Its all too easy to live our lives in a kind of comfort zone. Doing the things we have done before, the things that we know we can do. Not putting ourselves in situations that might be a challenge to us. Perhaps going along with the crowd for an easy life.

Courage is about taking that step into what might be the unknown. Moving from passive faith the active trust. Moving from, for example, a belief that a chair can take my weight to an active trust by getting up and standing on it!

The chaplaincy team have demonstrated courage by standing up the front this morning, by writing the words they have said and by saying them in front of church.

I think that the Archbishop of Canterbury showed courage this week when he stood up un the House of Lords to say what he believed about the immigration bill.

We too can demonstrate courage when we try new things; when we are prepared to stand up for what we believe in; when we refuse to be swayed by the crowd. We can do these things because we know that God will be with us. As we sang earlier "Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you"

Love, faith and courage – great and life changing values for the school – but also I hope great and life changing values each one of us can live by day by day.