



From Our Vicar

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Out of Obscurity—Luke 1:39-56

God exalts the lowly and brings down the proud.

Such is the nature of his Kingdom – his ‘right side up’ kingdom in this ‘upside-down’ world.

The story of Mary’s visit to Elizabeth is a beautiful cameo – the more so because of its ordinariness and hiddenness from the prying eyes of those attracted to greatness. Yet we the reader are let in on the secret that this is far from ordinary, for God was hatching something in obscurity that would change the world. That’s how God works.

It is hard for us to grasp, we who are fed images daily of the dramatic, the famous, the world leaders and elite sportspeople – celebrity is held in god-like adoration. Yet it is so fragile and fleeting. God does not advertise his work. He reaches out in love through humble members of his body - those who have responded to the faithfulness of God with love and faithfulness in return.

When God famously spoke to Elijah, it was not through the wind or the earthquake or tempest, but in the stillness. Why is it that so many of God’s prophets and people of faith spent so much time in the desert, in exile from their homeland, in obscurity. They faced great trials and disappointments, wrongful abuse and grief, misunderstanding and rejection, yet God brought forth from their faithfulness so much more than they ever imagined. Consider Abraham, Moses, Naomi and Ruth, David and the prophets, Jesus – can anything good come out of Nazareth?

What about you? How many of us here have been written up in the newspapers, trumpeted on social media? What might God be bringing about through your long suffering, your sacrifices that no one knows about; your prayers behind closed doors, and your acts of love and kindness that are kept between you and God?

The good soil in the parable of the sower stands for those who receive God’s word with a good and noble heart, who retain it, and by persevering, produce a crop.

Might the untrumpeted people of St Michaels be such a faithful company in God’s creative hands, bearing fruit for eternity.

God bless you,
Wayne