

A few words from the Vicar

On 7th October, at our mid-morning service, we will be thinking about how each of us can serve God in our daily lives and in Church life. This applies to all, because all Christians are called to ministry through baptism. The Church is truly all age. There are no age restrictions; in God's service there is no such thing as being too young or too old.

Years ago, I was reminded of this when I came across something truly amazing, that was life changing for many people, the spark for which was the dedicated and persistent prayer of two godly sisters in their 80s. One of them was 84 years of age and the other 82, with one of them being blind too.

They were greatly burdened because not a single young person attended public worship in their parish. Not a single young man or young woman.

Then, a verse from Isaiah inspired them, "*I will pour water on him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground.*" (Isaiah 44:3) So, they agreed to meet regularly to pray together. They did not ask their minister's permission, they just did it.

One day, they sensed that God was about to do something awesome, so they sent for their minister. Naturally, he was overjoyed and joined their prayer meetings, together with the local Kirk elders (this was not a Church of England parish, but that does not matter in the slightest).

After six weeks of penitence and prayer, God began to act, people became aware of His presence within the community and the congregation grew phenomenally. The great Hebridean Revival of 1949 had begun.

And yes, the young people began attending worship in droves!

So, with the example of those two Gaelic speaking sisters in mind, I don't want anyone claiming they are too old to be of

service to God! All of us, whatever our age and physical condition, can serve in this very important way; we can pray. We can pray for the mission of the Church, for those in need and, yes, let's be bold; let's pray for a spiritual Revival in this land too.

Naturally, we need people inspired to roll up their sleeves in God's service, and I am grateful for the many who work hard to serve God and this Church in lots of different ways. There is always work to be done, particularly when it comes to engaging in God's mission. As Jesus advises, *'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'* (Luke 10:2)

But, as the devotion of those two sisters demonstrates, we must never neglect prayer. Prayer must be the foundation of everything we do as a Church. And, when we pray, things begin to happen.

That's why, in August, I issued a call to prayer to ask God to: shower His blessings upon us; guide us in mission; and bless us with funding for the building project and to enhance our sound system. Thank you to those who came along or prayed where they were – one on the tram I believe!

As those two sisters showed, persistence in prayer is important. Therefore, I continue to pray for these things, which feature daily in my devotions. I hope this is true for you too. Also, from time to time, I will call further prayer meetings. Whatever your age, please come along.

Every Blessing

Dave