

# Letter from the Minister

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Dear Friends,

Is the glass half empty or half full for you at the moment? It has been good to begin our 2019 teaching series on 'Holy Habits' as we encourage one another to develop habits that will lead to an increasingly mature and effective Christian discipleship. We are discovering more and more about learning as we follow.

Perhaps as the season of Lent begins we might also consider our character, maybe have a read of 1 Corinthians 13 to see how loving we are, or Galatians 5 as to whether we are showing the fruits of the Spirit. Maybe take a look at Jesus' time of temptation (Luke 4, Matthew 4) and see how we cope with such challenges.

I find it helpful to reflect on where I am in life by using four C's and perhaps you might find these helpful:

- ◆ Competence (How well do I do what I am doing?)
- ◆ Call (Who calls me and to what purpose?)
- ◆ Charisma (What gifts does God give me?)
- ◆ Character (Am I becoming more Christ-like?)

We do have to remember, however, that we are not supposed to beat ourselves up if we are struggling with some of this. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Bible says 'give thanks in all circumstances' (1 Thessalonians 5:8) and as a church we do well to encourage each other to have an attitude of gratitude. This is not to pretend that pain does not exist in our lives but our gratitude for good things is a true expression of the hope that is within us. Someone once said "gratitude is nature's solution to anxiety" (Carl Vernon).

You will read in this newsletter of lots of things that are happening that you can give thanks for and support in some way. You will also have the opportunity this month to come to our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, to look back with thanksgiving and look forward with hope and trust in the Lord.

May God bless you in this month ahead.  
Yours in Christ,

Eddie