

# Letter from the Minister

Sandpipers, Southampton Road, Hythe SO45 5AA  
Tel: Office 023 8084 5008  
& Home 023 8020 7868



Dear Friends,

Psalm 67 v 1 - 3 says this: *“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.”*

The famous blessing of Aaron from Numbers 6 v 24 - 26 impresses upon us that God is the source of every blessing: *“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”* In this case, the blessing was mediated through the priests – bringing with it the guarantee that the sacrifice for sin has been successful, confirming God’s love for his people, reminding them that his presence is with them.

Yet the words ripple out through the generations as in Psalm 67 but here the blessing is sought not for its own sake or even for the sake of Israel, but for all peoples, as seen in the next line – *“so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations”* – expressing the hope that God’s blessing will become a global reality.

This is a vision of God’s salvation that we as people and as a congregation of God’s people should seek in our day. This does not only provide a vision of God’s salvation embracing all nations, but also sees the people of God as those chosen to be instruments of his blessing to others. Through his grace, God brings together a people who exist so that others might be blessed. God’s desire to bless hasn’t changed, and nor has his means of doing so. The Psalm thus enables us to see the arenas of our everyday life as places where God blesses us, calls us to be living proofs of that blessing, and invites us to share it with those around us – in our families, neighbourhoods, and workplaces.

Then, beyond even this amazing privilege, the Psalm reminds us of the ultimate goal of mission – nothing less than the worship of the Lord among ‘all the peoples’.

That is what we should desire and we should co-operate with our God in bringing this about – All to God’s glory!

Yours in Christ,

Eddie