

Dear Friends

I don't know whether it ever happens to you but sometimes, for no reason at all, a tune comes into my head. I don't know why it happens, but it does. It happened to me quite recently. I think that the words go something like 'it ain't what you do but the way that you do it'. Anyone recognize it? Oh dear.....!!

Whether or not it rings a bell with you it did seem to me to have a particular relevance to our Christian lives. Just think for a moment about what we do. When I was a Civil Servant some years ago everything was measured in terms of the three Es: economy, efficiency and effectiveness. And they're still not a bad way of measuring what we do.

Is what we do economic? Are we making the best use of our resources? Over the next few months we'll be looking at this in more detail as we examine our giving.

Then there's efficiency. Is what we do efficient? Or put another way are we offering something that God finds worthy? Is our worship, our fundraising or whatever as good as it could be? From time to time we should just take time out to look at what we're doing.

Finally there's effectiveness. Maybe only God knows how effective we're being as his disciples. What evidence there is suggests that we're not too bad but might have reached a bit of a plateau. What do we need to be able to kick on? OK, I know, a new vicar! Well you're probably right, and we're working hard at it.

But there's more to a Christian life than that. What's really important IS the way that we do it. And that must be with love. If whatever we do is undergirded with the love of Jesus, others and yourself (JOY) then we can achieve anything. Jesus died on the cross because of his love for us; there can be no greater love than this. All we need do is to show just some small part of that love for each other. That's the way we do it.

The next few words of the song have just come back to me 'that's what gets results'. And by loving each other we shall.

With best wishes

Mike

Reader and Churchwarden