

MALCOLM

O Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

Over the past few months, we have had some visitors into our building, for funerals and other things, and all of them, when they come in here, are overwhelmed.

“It is so beautiful”, they say. “I never imagined it would look like this”. “Look at all that beautiful glass!” “How peaceful and calm is it in here?” And then the questions about how old it is, and the oohs and aahs, that follow that.

It’s lovely, absolutely lovely.

This is a beautiful building, it is magnificent and marvellous, years of prayer and worship have rendered this space, full of peace and calm.

With daylight saving now finished, on a Sunday morning for our service at 0800, the sun is just hitting the windows, as we go through the liturgy, the Christ the King window in the lady Chapel, blazes alive.

This is truly a magnificent space. A marvellous building.

Architecture is important, it’s vital, as we see every time, we come in here. It lifts our spirits, it raises our eyes, it calls us to look beyond ourselves ... to something else, to God.

Architecture is important ... and our reading from Psalm 118 uses an architectural term in our text for today.

“The stone that the builders rejected, has become the cornerstone.”

Large buildings in antiquity had cornerstones to take the weight of the structure that was being built on them. These stones were essential to the stability and structural integrity of the edifice they supported; they were very important.

But it seems that the Psalmist is not just speaking of physical buildings when using this term. But of something else.

“The stone that the builders rejected, could be the whole people of Israel. Those excluded from worship in the Temple by strict religious practises.

Or it could be the Psalmist themselves.

All of these could be rejected stones ... that God has turned in to important cornerstones.

Whomever it is, it’s clear this Psalm is not just about buildings ... but people.

As magnificent, marvellous and important as St Barnabas’s is ... it’s not the most important thing. People are.

People are the living stones that God uses to build and construct things.

And sometimes, it is the “stones that the builders reject, that can be the most important.

Today is Palm Sunday, and we shout and wave Palm branches with the crowds in Jerusalem. But as people who have lived through many Palm Sunday’s, we know how this week ends.

We know that the builders turn out to be Priests and religious authorities, crowds and Jesus own disciples ...

We know it is Jesus who is rejected.

We know it is Jesus who becomes the cornerstone.

Architecture is important. Buildings are important.

But God's building blocks ... people ...

are the most important of all.

Especially those ... who don't look like they are.

O Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.