

REFLECTIONS ON: A VISION STATEMENT FOR ST. PHILIP ANGLICAN CHURCH

4. We desire to honour the intention of all followers of Christ to live responsively to the guidance of God's Holy Spirit in love and care for all people and for God's creation.

In the Gospels we see Jesus interacting with a variety of individuals. In every case he meets people where they are. He responds to them according to their life situation and their particular character.

Every person is at a different place in life. We are all on a spiritual journey. God is at work in each person's life in the particular way that is uniquely suited to that person.

Jesus' biggest problem was with people who believed that all human situations could be dealt with by referring to an external code of human conduct.

In the church every person who comes to receive the bread and wine during communion is indicating their awareness of God's presence in their lives and their desire to live in accordance with their understanding of God's presence and action. We honour this opening to God in each person.

Jesus said, "Do not judge so that you may not be judged." (Matthew 7:1) We do not know enough about any person's life situation and circumstances to judge them. We cannot impose our expectations upon another without doing violence to that person. Jesus asked, "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?" (Matthew 7:3) We are each responsible to deal with our own logs to allow God to work on our neighbour.

How can I honour the other's intention to follow Christ?

What are the logs in my own eye that I am reluctant to acknowledge?