

Lent lecture 2: Singing the Lord's song in a strange land

18 March 2014



The second in the series of Lent Lectures at St James' Finchampstead was given by Canon Dr Ann Holt OBE, entitled 'Singing the Lord's song in a strange land'.

Ann Holt has been involved in education throughout her working life and currently is Director of External Relations at the Bible Society. She described how she has been heavily involved in the Society's domestic programme to 'put the Bible back into our own culture'; making the Bible accessible through the media, art and education.

But, she said, the Bible Society can only act as a catalyst. The real Christian work has to be done by church members; by taking the church out of the building and into the community. So how should we 'sing the Lord's song' in our materialistic world here in UK?

The book of the Acts of the Apostles makes it quite clear: it is by proclamation, assembly, action and confrontation, and followers of Christ should 'take up this cross and walk with it'. They should create a space within society to tell the story of God and Jesus, proclaiming the good news, and 'walking the talk', as well as responding to the big questions.

This world is our home, and we should live with passion and conviction, in true spirituality. As God's stewards of everything, the Christian's work is thus service to others in God's name. And if the Christian faith produces good in everything, then it will be seen that the Kingdom of God is truly at hand.

We should also aspire to Isaiah's vision (Chapter 65:20-23) of the restored community, in which babies and children do not die young, the old find fulfilment and dignity, and people do not labour in vain but will enjoy the things that they have worked for.