



22 February Revd Dr Andrew Knight

Lent2021

My favourite meal of the year is usually on Boxing Day: baked potatoes and multitude of leftovers: cold meat, roasted vegetables, cheeses and reheated Christmas pud. No elaborate preparations, just honest leftovers from the plentiful provision of the season. When Jesus fed 5000+ people on the hillside with a boy's provisions of just five small loaves and two small fish, God's superabundant generosity and blessing was manifest. Not only were 5000 fed in this alfresco feast, but they "ate their fill". In a place and time when food was scarce and starvation a real possibility, to be stuffed full, completely satisfied, was a real blessing and cause for celebration. Yet God's blessing went further... The disciples were instructed to gather up the leftovers, 12 basketfuls so that nothing would be lost.

Shockingly, one third of the food produced in the world today is wasted. 1.3 billion tonnes of food a year discarded, as it spoils, is surplus to requirements or doesn't meet our exacting standards of perfection. Yet, 11% or 820 million people in the world don't have enough food and are undernourished, and over 8 million people in the UK are in food poverty, struggling to buy the food they need.

How can we reflect God's superabundant generosity to us in the way we conserve, share and bless others with food we buy, store and cook?

Revd Dr Andrew Knight, Partington and Carrington

"And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.'"

John 6:12

Information Point

Climate Stewards encourage you to calculate your carbon footprint, reduce it if you can and offset the rest. Find out more by following the link.

<https://www.climatestewards.org/>

A prayer

Jesus, Bread of Life,

We praise you for your abundant gifts in our lives. Fill us with your compassion and love so we would willingly share this abundance with those in need, and in your mercy, may our small offerings achieve miraculous things for your Kingdom.

Amen