



31 March Revd Tina Upton

Lent2021

There are cherry trees alongside the path leading from the Rectory to the church, which I pass very frequently. Right now, in winter, to my untrained eye, the gnarled bare branches look as if they could be dead. In a few weeks' time they will burst into life, and those branches will produce buds and then a fantastic blossom. In springtime, what was hidden inside becomes obvious, whether a tree has died or is alive. The fruit is not what gives the tree life, but it is clear evidence of that good life. Jesus reminds us that the same is the case spiritually with people.

External appearances tell us nothing of how alive in Christ someone is. I can look to others as if I am saying and doing the right things, but my true relationship with God is hidden. Hidden, that is, until the Holy Spirit at work within me forces me to do something that others spot is of God. That is what shows whether I am authentic or not. It is up to me to ensure that my relationship with God is such that my roots go deeply into Him, and allow the Holy Spirit to flow sap-like freely through me. Daily prayer and bible reading keep my roots healthy.

Spend a little time thinking if there is anything in your life that is blocking God from freely flowing through you.

Revd Tina Upton, Holy Trinity, Blacon

"A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. 19 So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. 20 Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions."

Matthew 7:18-20

Information Point

Check out the Diocesan website for advice on energy use in your church.

<https://www.chester.anglican.org/support-services/churches/technical-advice/energy-use.php>

A prayer

Dear God,

Show me how I shut you out and help me to be cleansed of that, and to know your Spirit filling me afresh, and empowering me to work for your glory in this world.

Amen.