

Treasure

25 6 17

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.

Our text this morning may be found in Matthew's gospel, chapter 6 and verse 21:

'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'

This tiny nugget of wisdom is part of a collection of Jesus' teaching known as the Sermon on the Mount. **'For where your treasure is, there will your hearts be also'** is the climax of just three verses about how we should live our lives, that what we treasure should be informed, not by everyday values, but by God's standards for us. Materially, what we treasure on earth can decay over time and can be stolen from us. Moths, rust, thieves can all steal what we value. But, in heaven, what we value spiritually is without a sell-by date and thieves can't ever get in to get it !

Surprisingly, the Greek word for treasure here is θησαυρος (thesaurus), which is the title of a book, 'Roget's Thesaurus', a treasury of English words, a compilation of synonyms, a great aid to enriching our power of expression. But if the word treasure here means not simply that which has monetary worth but that which has

spiritual worth for us, what we really truly value, then it has a richer meaning echoed in a personalised version of our text this morning, 'where our treasure is, there shall our hearts be also.'

So my question – do we treasure St Bartholomew's Church, Dinard ? Is St Bart's important to us ? Is our church truly our church ? Is St Bart's mine, yours, ours – a church with a past, a church of the present, a church with a future ? We are truly lucky to be able to enjoy the legacy of the past: the gift of William Faber; of the Monteiths; the Forbes, Villiers, Curtis family; of Elizabeth Hannay, Julian and Audrey Thompson, Sybil Fagg. They, together with priests like Donald Pankhurst and Alan Charters, have invested so much time effort and money into this place, this building, this land, that we are truly lucky to be able to enjoy their legacy to us.

But the challenge to us today is are we prepared to insure a future for those who come after us by investing sufficient to continue to nurture and to cherish what we have from them ?

And that is next month's challenge: the re-launch of our stewardship campaign to make the income of our church sufficient to pay for our outgoings and to increase our reserves to meet, God-willing, the challenges of the future. I pray we will because St Bart's is something we can truly treasure. To do so is simply an act of love; a physical measure of our spiritual commitment to a place that can be an open-door to all who would like to come in and find peace and quiet and prayer for as Jesus tells us, 'where your treasure is, there will your hearts be also.'

I have spoken in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

Preached at the Eucharist

St Bartholomew's, Dinard

25th June, 2017

G: Sermons 36 : Treasure

