

## From the Vicar's Desk

***Life Attitudes:*** *The eight radical sayings from Matthew's Gospel (Matt.5: 3-10) contain both values for living and promises of blessing.*

Christianity is essentially a lifestyle religion. It is as much about what and who we are as about what we say or believe. The scriptures are not primarily books of doctrines but rather stories of how the revelation of God has made an impact on and shaped the lives of those who have heard its message.

We live in a rapidly changing world. Increasingly, ours is a culture where people are less interested in religious activity than in 'spirituality', and more interested in 'resources for living' than in doctrines or creeds. In a climate where lifestyle and well-being are major preoccupations and where values and codes are judged by whether they work, the challenge for the church is twofold: to equip its members more wholly to live their faith; and to demonstrate to those outside the church that a knowledge of God make sense of the whole of life.

The Beatitudes focus our minds on what makes us truly happy. These short verses are a rich mine of resources for living. They call us to 'live the kingdom – now' and to encounter God's blessing as we do this. Jesus lived out the Beatitudes in his earthly life and calls his followers to do the same.

As Christians we are encouraged to examine our lifestyle in the light of Jesus' radical teaching and to live out these kingdom values – now.

*Father Carl*