

## St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE - February 2010

Dear Friends,

Martin Luther King Jr spoke the word of God from a tiny Baptist Church in America and from it they found that they were able to accomplish the impossible. He transposed the themes of love, suffering, and justice from a small church to a public stage in areas of equality, health, education, into systems and ministries which enabled and liberated the soul.

Likewise G. K. Chesterton was promoting a gospel to an industrial age that saw itself as a self-sustaining machine. In a delightful passage in *Orthodoxy* Chesterton insists that even if we feel life sometimes does not proceed with a predictable pattern in the ups and downs of life, that does not mean that God does not act as Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier of all. He wrote: 'It might be true that the sun rises regularly because He never tires of rising. His routine might be due, not to a lifelessness, but to a rush of life. The thing I mean can be seen . . . in children, when they find some game or joke that they especially enjoy. A child kicks his legs rhythmically through excess, not absence, of life. Because children have abounding vitality, because they are in spirit free, therefore they want things repeated unchanged. They always say, 'Do it again'; and the grown-up person does it again and again – a thing to enjoy. We then give the message 'One more time' because grown-ups are not strong enough to exult in monotony. But perhaps God is, strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every new morning, 'Do it again' to the moon, to the sun and the stars. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it maybe that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that God has the eternal appetite of infancy' to make all things new in Him.

This is the God of love who chose us, adopted us to be His own before we ever chose him. When adopted children repeatedly ask their parents to recount the events of their adoption, the story remains the same – it is a sacred formula of what is true. 'You chose me' – the child chips in. God's story is repetitious too – His story becomes our story and we tell it, the way a favourite story is always told, from our own experience. All of us who seek to believe are apprentices in story telling the Good News of the glory of God in the warrens of our rural friendships, in the hub of life amid all God say's my story is a story of love in your lives, it is the story of life itself. So may we let His story permeate our lives and this Lent may we tell it, again and again and again.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

*Lesley Eden*

Parish priest