

Reflection Wednesday Lent 2 – 2021

Service, service, service. Like so many words the word service too often stands for a menial or lower status when it is quite the opposite. We even call our worship a service because it is.

A story: Once some of the elders were in Scete and Abbot John the Dwarf was with them. While they were dining, a priest, a very old man, got up and attempted to serve them. But no one would take so much as a cup of water from him except John the Dwarf. The others were somewhat shocked about this and later said to John, *“How is it that you considered yourself worthy to accept the service of that holy man?”* John the Dwarf replied, *“Well, when I offer people a drink of water, I’m happy if they take it. Did you expect me to sadden the old man by depriving him of the joy of giving me something?”*

Service is described as a joy, which is what it is. We can even experience joy in the service Jesus gave to the people who came to him. The kind of service Jesus asks of us is a privilege and an honour. Jesus gives the same impression. Jesus did not think of himself as something less by becoming man. It was through service that he showed us that we could become fully human and express the true love and presence of God in the world. Jesus made it possible for us to become a sign of goodness and love, of fellowship and communion, of kindness and gentleness, of humour as well as sorrow, in fact all the qualities and virtues of God. Jesus showed us that true quality, true value, true worth comes from within and not from without or awarded by others. Service is the best way to discover our true worth but most of all it reveals to us how much and how valued we are in God’s eyes.