

"So after they'd  
fasted and prayed,  
they placed their  
hands on them and  
sent them off."



Acts 13:3

Do you remember the story of 'The Rich Young Ruler' from Mark chapter 10? If so, you'll remember that the young man asked Jesus, *"What do I need to do to inherit eternal life?"* We're told that the answer Jesus gave the gentleman was so challenging that, *"his face fell and he went away sad."*

On occasions, Jesus will ask us to do things for him that we will find difficult; scary even. This might include giving generously, forgiving someone who has wronged us, or other tasks. Today's theme in our "Love Your Church" series is "Sending" and in it we're going to take a look at how God sometimes chooses to say "go" to his people - to leave the familiar behind them in order to go and serve him in a way and in a place of his choosing. Regardless of whether we are the ones being sent or are doing the sending, this is a challenging theme that is worth exploring as we consider how we might "Love the Church" more and more.

### **Collect for the Feast of Christ the King**

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## Bible Readings for 20th November

Acts 11:19-30 & 13:1-3 (NIVUK)

**19** Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews.

**20** Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. **21** The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

**22** News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. **23** When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. **24** He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

**25** Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, **26** and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great

numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

**27** During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

**28** One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) **29** The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea.

**30** This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

**1** Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. **2** While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' **3** So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.



"The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord."

Acts 11:21

## Luke 23:33-43 (NIVUK)

**33** When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. **34** Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

**35** The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.'

**36** The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar **37** and said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.'

**38** There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

**39** One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: 'Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!'

**40** But the other criminal rebuked him. 'Don't you fear God,' he said, 'since you are under the same sentence? **41** We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.'

**42** Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'

**43** Jesus answered him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

---

## Discipleship Group Discussion Questions

Taken from 'Love Your Church' by Tony Merida

### Week 7: Sendng (Read Acts 11:19-30, 13:1-3)

1. How do we see God at work through people as the Antioch church is established (11 v19-25)?
2. What different roles do Barnabas and Saul play?
3. What attitude do the Antioch Christians have toward other churches, toward Saul and Barnabus, toward unreached people, and toward God himself? What does this teach you as a local church today?
4. How outward-looking are you as a church? What would be one step you could take to grow in this area together?
5. In your church, what could you do to follow the example of Barnabus? How could you encourage others to do the same?
6. What will you pray for your church, your community, and the world in the light of this passage?



## Church Prayer and Fasting

Please put the date of Friday 25th - Saturday 26th November in your diary as the next day of whole-church prayer and fasting. As always, we'll pray for an hour or so from 8am on Saturday morning before sharing breakfast together.



## Sunday Walk and Talk

We're hoping to run walks on the **3rd Sunday of the month**, in and around the Eastleigh area. This will be followed most times by **light refreshments at Andrew & Kate Ross' home**. Our first walk will be on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November**:

- *Meet Point*: In the car park by the Boyatt Wood shops
- *Time*: 14:15
- *Estimate length of walk*: Just under 1 hour
- *Equipment*: Please wear sturdy shoes for some muddy trails



Please join us afterwards at Andrew & Kate Ross' home (or instead of, if walking is not your thing) for **light refreshments from 4pm**. Their address is 2 Chartwell Close, Allbrook, SO50 4PZ. If possible please do consider car sharing so that we aren't filling up the car park, and **message Kate if you are planning to come on 07867 514961**. Children are very welcome if they can walk the distance, but the route isn't pram friendly. Speak to Rachel P for more info!

## Warm Welcome Planning Meeting: 7pm Weds 23rd Nov

If you'd like to help plan the new Warm Welcome initiative, you're invited to attend a planning meeting at 7pm on Weds 23rd Nov (i.e. this week) in the lounge at All Saints'. If you can't attend but have some good ideas, please will you email them to [Sue@eastleighparish.com](mailto:Sue@eastleighparish.com) ASAP so that we can take your thoughts on board? At this stage, we have no firm plans - so now is the time to put your tuppence worth in the pot! If you'd like to know more about the national scheme, please visit <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/>



## Can you help make our church building look festive?

With Advent just around the corner, it's time to think about getting our building ready for the festivities! We will be **putting our Christmas decorations up**, both inside and outside All Saints', on **Saturday 26th November at 11am**.



We're trying not to let Ian go up any high ladders just yet, until his balance, health and energy levels improve a bit more - so we will need help to do this. As much as it seems like a fun thing for little ones, having too many around might not be a good idea, as most of the decorations involve high ladders, even if it's not you going up them. **Please let Sue know if you can help** (she might have to get you signed off with our Health & Safety Officer to be allowed to go up the highest ladders). A few festive treats might even be available for helpers!

## Christmas Quiz!

On **Friday 9th December at 7.00 pm**, here at All Saints', our next **Quiz Night** will be taking place! Book your place by **calling Jayne on 07557273554**, or sign-up on the noticeboard. It's just **£8 per head**.

