

FAISS

Activity - What Anglicans believe about themselves

Individuals

See below the collection of statements gathered from a diverse group of Anglicans, children, young people, clergy, elderly, long-time Anglicans and new. The statements discuss aspects of the Anglican experience that each person particularly appreciates. Arrange the statements into categories. If you need a clue, see the list of category suggestions below.

Groups

Ask groups to peruse the cards and arrange them into categories, see if you can get seven in all. Encourage group discussion as you make sorting decisions.

Individuals and groups

Think about the challenges of the categorising activity. Did you find categorising these statements difficult? See the list below and note any differences in the categories you came up with.

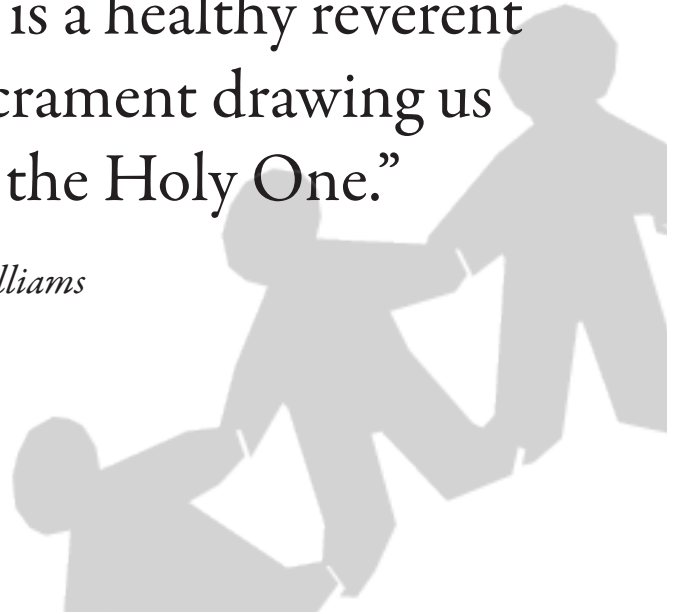
- ◆ Worship
- ◆ Common prayer
- ◆ Doctrines of creation and the incarnation
- ◆ Reason and common sense
- ◆ Diversity
- ◆ The life of the imagination
- ◆ Sacraments

The list is drawn from the book, *Meet the Family* by Patricia Bays (ISBN 1-55145-073-9). It features in greater detail in another activity.



“Anglican worship for me is a healthy reverent balance of Word and Sacrament drawing us into the Presence of the Holy One.”

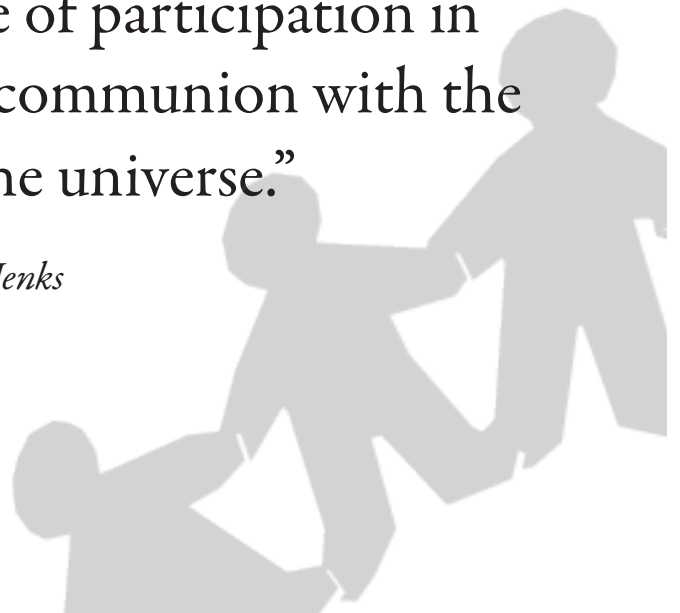
Bishop Ron Williams



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“At its best worship connects me with the others involved and draws me into a deeper mystery. When this happens, and it does not always occur, I have a deep sense of participation in the Body of Christ and of communion with the sacred heart of the universe.”

Rev Dr Greg Jenks



The opportunity to revisit through an established framework, the seasons and story of the Christian Church, to be involved in an inclusive community with genuinely common prayer and to celebrate the life and work of Christ through the sacraments is crucial to me. The words of the blessing reflect my feelings for the value of worshipping in the Anglican tradition – “the peace of God which passes all understanding.”

Dr Judith Hancock

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“Eucharistic worship is of wonderful consolation in a troubled world. Not only do we remember with thanks, we also look forward with real anticipation towards sharing this meal with Jesus... in eternity...that’s why we do it often now!”

Rev Ainsley Haldane



“What I value most about common prayer is the feeling of comfort from the familiarity of the liturgy. I guess I enjoy having a certain structure even though I find refreshing to sometimes have some changes in the service but I feel I wouldn’t like changes all the time. I guess I come from a traditional background and that is the sort of service I am comfortable with now.”

Maxine Chandler

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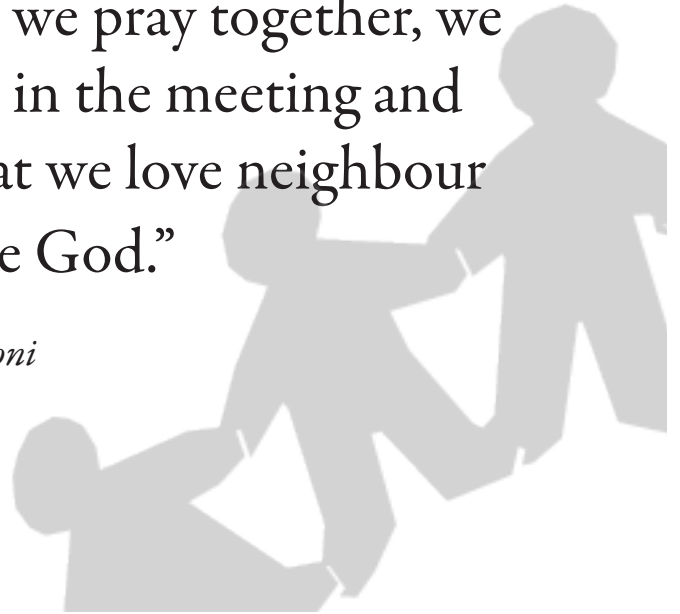
“The prayers said by the people together, in unison, so we can all “speak with one voice”. Also a very comforting thing to encounter when you are far from home, but use the same format.”

Sue Sneddon



“The concept of shared prayer turns individualistic spirituality on its head. As we pray together, we know God together. It is in the meeting and being met by the other that we love neighbour and thus love God.”

Aaron Ghiloni

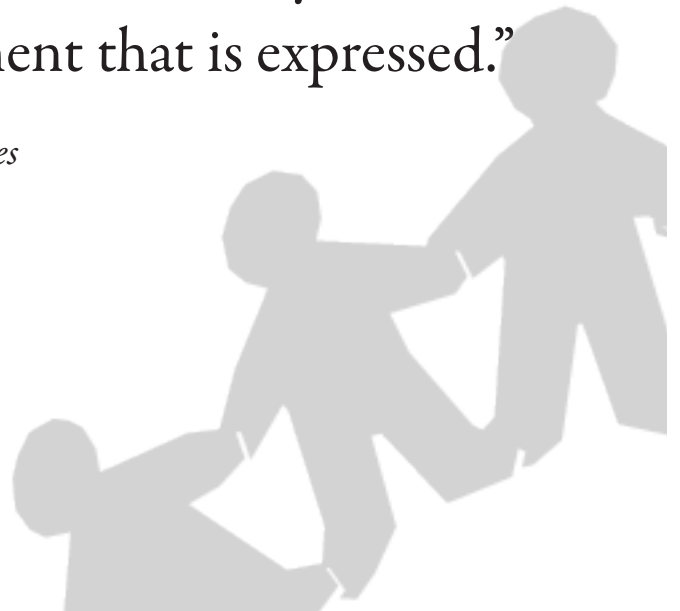


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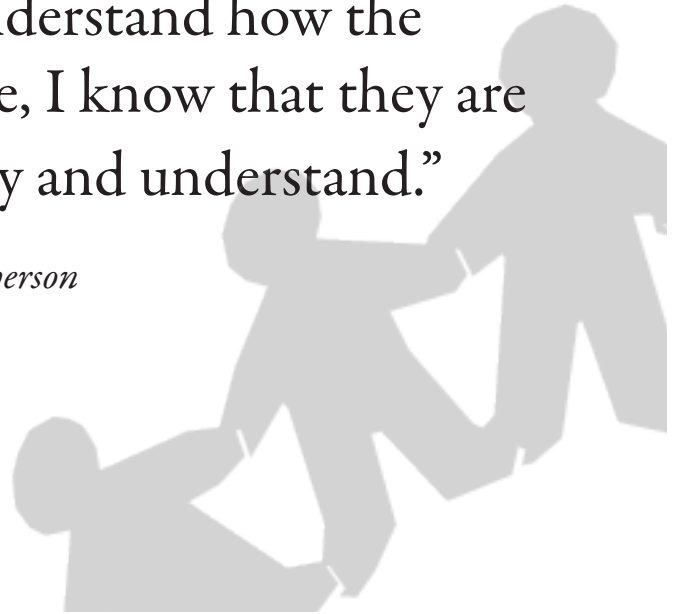
“Common prayer to me is a feeling that you’re not really alone in what you believe, even if you don’t go along with every sentiment that is expressed.”

Alison Cotes



“Even though I don’t understand how the sacraments work all the time, I know that they are important enough to try and understand.”

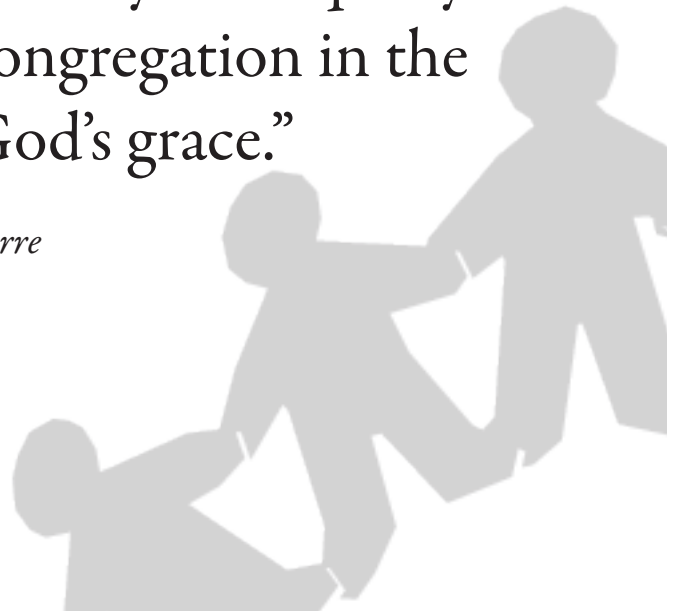
Thomas Macpherson



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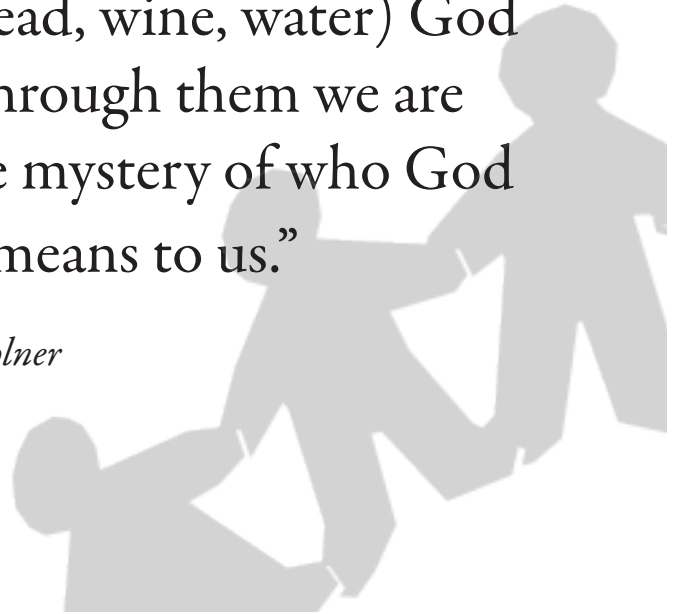
“What I value most about Sacraments as an important aspect of Anglicanism is they enable me to participate fully and equally with the others in the congregation in the outpouring of God’s grace.”

Rev Rex Marre



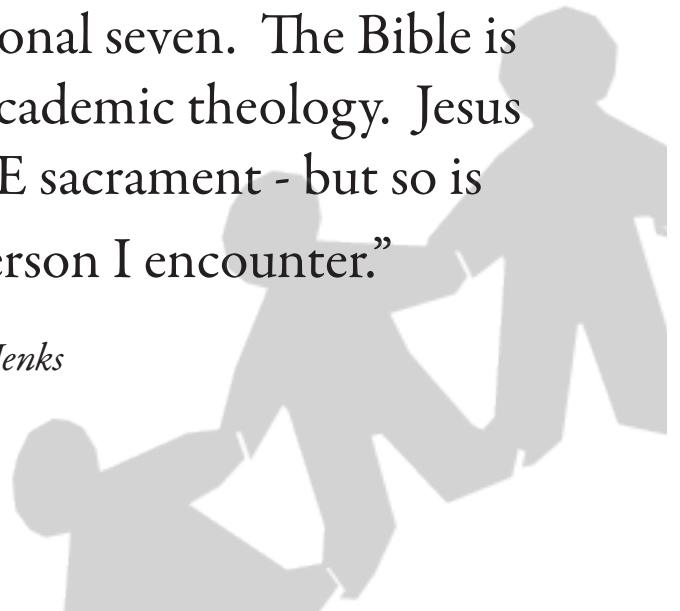
“What I value most about sacraments that in simple, everyday things (bread, wine, water) God offers himself to us and through them we are brought more fully into the mystery of who God is and what God means to us.”

Rev Julie Woolner



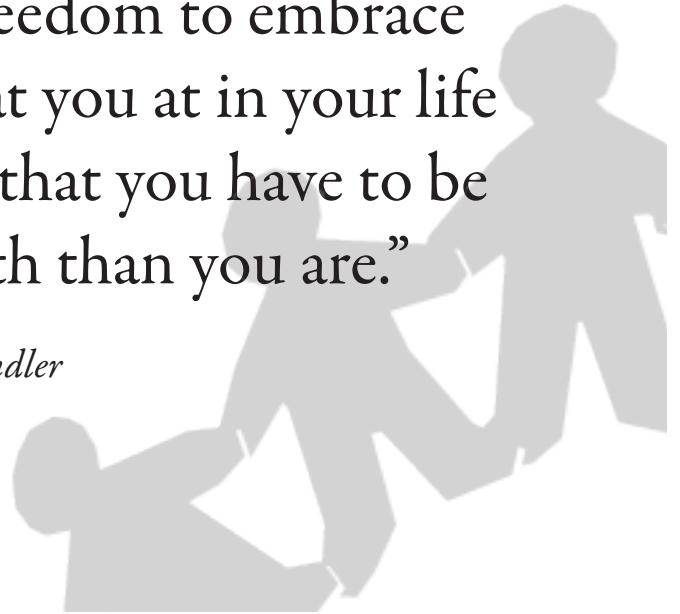
“Sacraments draw out the spiritual dimensions of our space/time universe, and open my eyes me to see other moments and events where God is encountered in everyday life. My sense of the sacraments grows out of my theology of creation, and extends to include other sacraments beyond the traditional seven. The Bible is a sacrament for me, but so is academic theology. Jesus is a sacrament - perhaps THE sacrament - but so is each and every other person I encounter.”

Rev Dr Greg Jenks



“What I value most about reason and common sense is the freedom to embrace your faith at the level that you at in your life journey without feeling that you have to be further along the path than you are.”

Maxine Chandler



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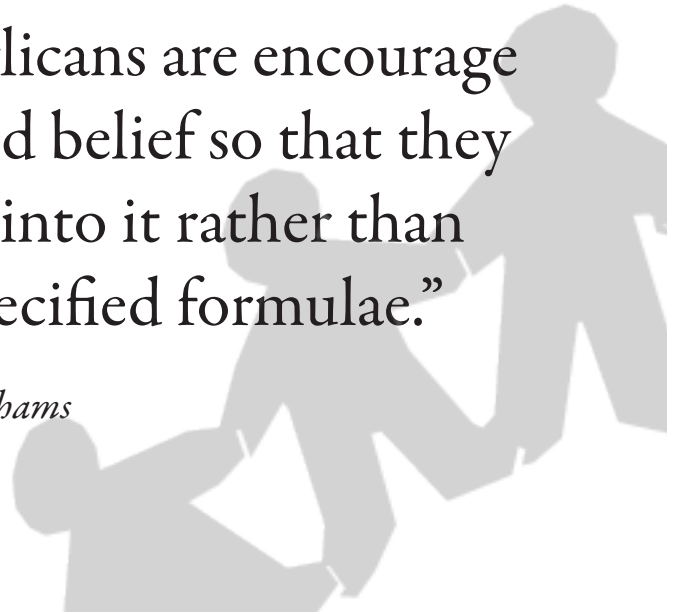
“Anglicanism encourages us to apply God’s gifts of reason, common sense, and imagination as we talk and listen to him day by day. This combination undoubtedly makes for good decisions in life, not just for ourselves, but also for those we have in our care.”

Rev Ainsley Haldane



We rejoice that God has given us our minds to reason in the matters of faith as well as in all other aspects of life. Anglicans are encouraged to question their faith and belief so that they may enter more deeply into it rather than passively accepting specified formulae.”

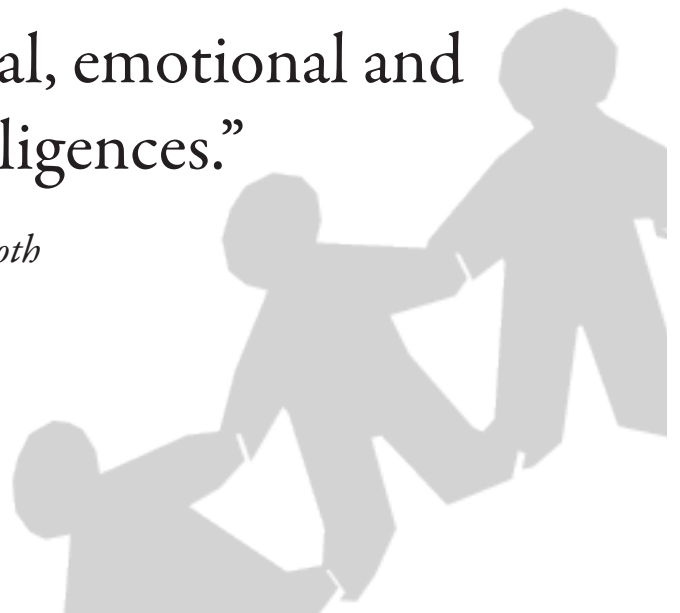
Fr Bill Colbrahams



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“God invites us to make full use of our mental faculties (not leaving our brains at the door of the church!) - in fact the whole range of our intellectual, emotional and spiritual intelligences.”

Rev Tim Booth



“Language about Spirit and God is necessarily the language of poetry and the arts more than it is scientific, and it demands that we use our imagination leading us to the point of saying “Aha” as something of the truth breaks through. As an Anglican, I am thankful for the use we make of artistic expression in work and worship.”

Bishop Ron Williams

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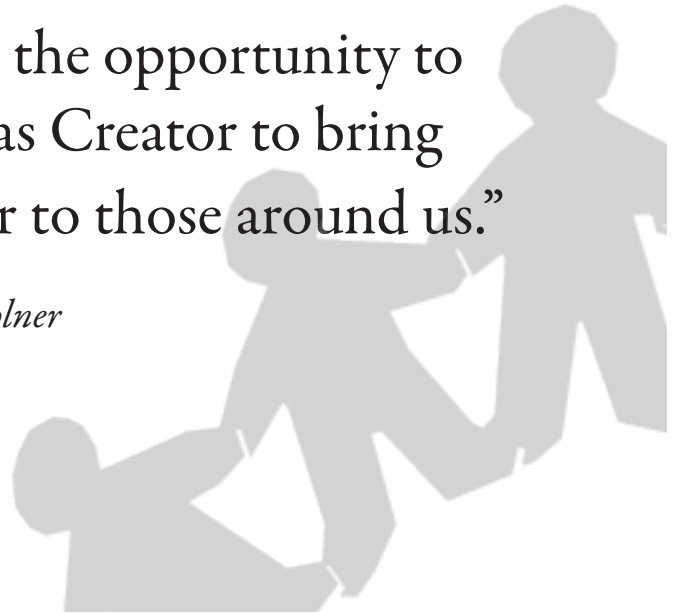
“The Bible includes many instances of people discerning God’s will through dreams. And there are the dreams that we develop as we identify visions of what the future might hold; of what under God the world and ourselves might become.”

Fr Bill Colbrahams



“What I value most about the life of the imagination that we have the opportunity to share in the gift of God as Creator to bring wholeness, life and wonder to those around us.”

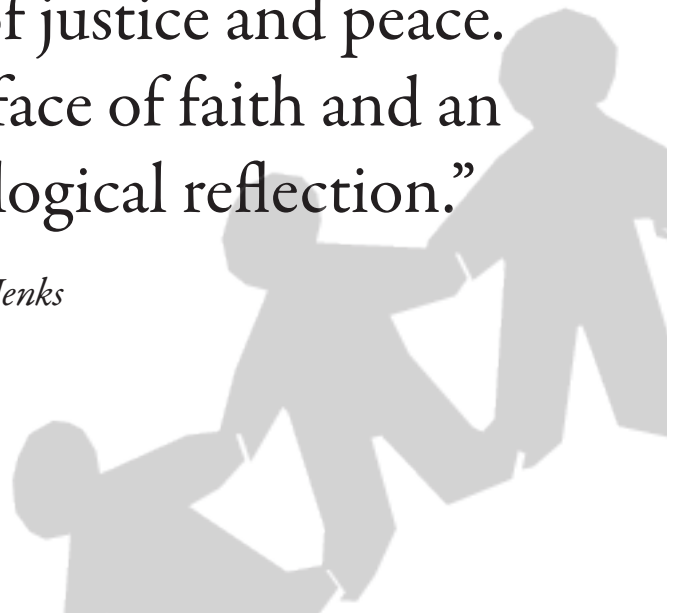
Rev Julie Woolner



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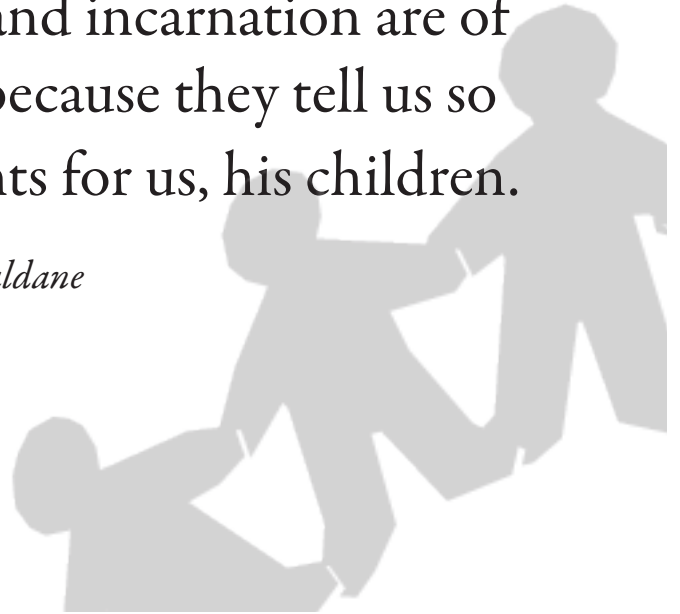
“What I cannot imagine cannot inspire me. Whatever I can imagine might come to pass. What seems impossible is worth imagining, especially in the fields of justice and peace. Imagination is another face of faith and an essential tool for theological reflection.”

Rev Dr Greg Jenks



“The doctrines of creation and incarnation are of fundamental importance because they tell us so much about what God wants for us, his children.

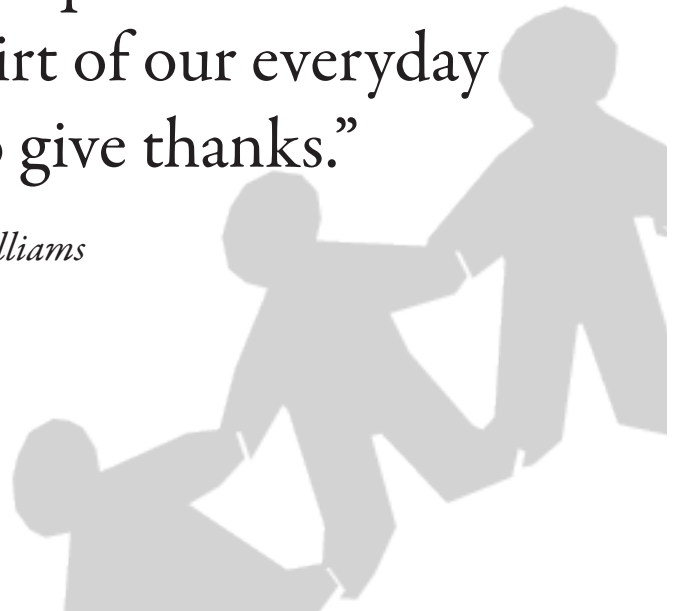
Rev Ainsley Haldane



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“How good to begin our stories with the grateful recognition of the blessing of Creation, and for the surprises when we recognise God in the dirt of our everyday and we are able to give thanks.”

Bishop Ron Williams



“We share the belief in God as creator with other world religions. I delight in the assurance in the first creation story in the Bible which repeatedly tells us that God saw what God created and declared it to be good. The idea that God entered the created world is distinctive to Christianity. We celebrate this not as an abstract idea but in the historical person of Jesus whom, we believe is truly human and also God. God is not remote and unable to empathise with us but rather is close and involved with us and knows what it is to be a human being.”

Fr Bill Colbrahams

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“These are both very important to me. They both express that God is a Divine Being who seeks to be in relationship with other beings. Creation shows us that the God of the universe created the heavens and the earth and all that dwell therein; including humanity. God then desired to enter into a personal, present relationship with the created order and thus chose to enter into the world in human flesh to dwell among us, to live in our midst and be in intimate personal relationship with us.”

Br Nathan James

“Thank God that God has made us different and unique. It means that we have much to learn from one another, and something to contribute for the common wellbeing. I value our Anglican approach most when we act inclusively, and I worry and pray when we appear to act in any way exclusively.”

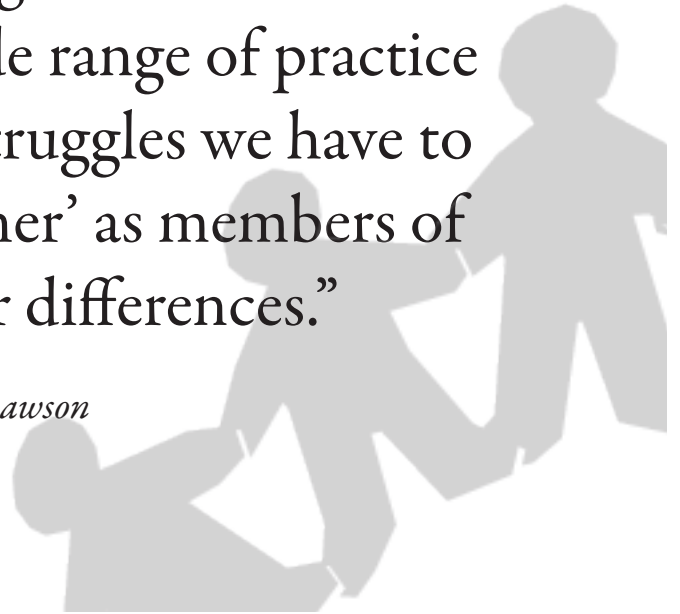
Bishop Ron Williams

“Anglicanism promotes unity in diversity. This means that we acknowledge that individuality is a gift from God to be fully uncovered and expressed (part of our worship of God - expressing our fullest God-given humanity) in community. We only truly discover and express who we by being part of an interconnected and vibrant community, reciprocally receiving and giving back. The story of scripture, with its multiple theologies, authors, settings and developing understanding of God and the human condition is testament to this. So also is our belief in the Trinity: that Godself is diverse in a dynamic relationship - much like a dance - that we are invited to participate in.”

Rev Tim Booth

“What I value most about diversity as an important aspect of Anglicanism is we are able to encompass a wide range of practice and belief. I value the struggles we have to find ways to ‘live together’ as members of Christ despite our differences.”

Rev Lorraine Dawson



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“Like the colours of the rainbow, the diversity of creation and the diversity of faith invite me to look beyond the harmony of the whole (the white light) to the special giftedness of each spectrum that contributes to the whole.”

Rev Dr Greg Jenks

