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Thought for the weak



with the Rev Preben Andersen

I LIKE the story about the pastor who called on one of his elderly parishioners and became quite fascinated by the bowl of shelled peanuts she had on the coffee table.

During the conversation, he began nibbling on them and soon enough, the bowl was empty.

He then apologised to the woman for eating all her peanuts, but she replied: "That's quite okay, reverend, it's no bother. You see, three weeks ago I had all my teeth pulled out and since then, I've just been sucking the chocolate off the peanuts and putting them in that bowl."

I am truly sorry if I have now put you off your breakfast this morning, but joking apart, and thinking seriously for a moment, does not this illustration describe how many of us come to, and think about, religion these days? In our pick and mix society which is what we are surrounded by.

"Come on, let us just suck off what we need and what may do us some good for now and then put the rest aside – the less palatable parts, as it were – at least until a rainy day."

I am afraid God is not someone we can approach just little bits at a time, if at all, and then put aside. It is certainly my own experience that He expects more than that from us and I believe He deserves our best endeavour, even if there are things about Him we find it hard to 'crack' immediately.

I was not born a Christian. In fact, it took me twenty years to even begin the journey properly. And without the help and prayer and practical support of so many, I, too, would probably only be sucking off the top layer still. However, I can assure you that it is the kernel that matters, the inside, and I encourage you not only to believe it but to try it, taste it, for yourself.

All we need to say for starters is this: "Lord, here I am. Use me." He can and He will. God does not work with empty shells.

If not always directly and immediately, then in His time, He will work with and for you through those who care for Him already, and who care for you at the same time.