

MONMOUTHSHIRE 40p Wednesday, August 5, 2015

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Dear Friends,

Seeing that I am now the superintendent minister for the Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit, do I look or feel any different? No, I do not! And having been nominated as the new chaplain for The British Legion, Caldicot branch, am I beginning to buckle under the added responsibility? No, I am not! Knowing that there will be so much more travel now, and so many more churches to visit and people to care for, am I worried? No, I refuse to be that. And finally, do I take a blind bit of notice when the members of my churches tell me to take it easy and slow down and not do too much? Well, they will tell you that I conveniently seem to lose my hearing when they start. Pardon?

Seriously, and yes, it is a busy life, but as all Christians will tell you, our strength comes from God, as well as the desire to work and work hard, knowing what a privilege it is to serve and to follow Him. You see, the privileges are so many and often come to

us in such surprising ways when doing the Lord's work. Reading the Bible, saying a prayer, finding that quiet moment to be still before God, be in the company of people in their greatest needs, leading worship on a Sunday, offering our petitions to God for a world in so much need, and knowing, feeling, sensing that we are listened to and our prayers acted on, in God's time. These privileges, and many more, are what makes us tick and go on, and on, and on.

I am very conscious and grateful that so many readers appreciate this column, for you tell me so. I am also aware that for the many of you it will be the first column you skip. "Oh no, not him again, the goodie goodie!" Well, actually, no, not at all, simply one who is privileged to live and work among a group of like-minded people, searching for what is good and true and lasting in life rather than making do with what for so many is temporary and often bewildering and lonely.

Preben Andersen

Thought for  
the weak



with the Rev Preben  
Andersen