



Thank U Very Much

How many of you remember a song that was Number 1 in the charts many years ago? The name of the group that recorded the song was *The Scaffold* (Paul McCartney's brother Mike was a member) and the song was called *Thank U Very Much!* This song included a long list of things that *The Scaffold* thought that we should be thankful for, the Aintree Iron (whatever that is!), the birds and bees, the family circle, love, cultural heritage, national beverage, being fat, Union Jack, nursery rhyme, Sunday Times, our gracious team, Sunday joint, everyone!

At present I am sitting here in Legge Towers asking myself this question; if I were to rewrite this song to reflect my own personal experiences as Team Vicar in the Parish of Kidderminster East over the last 10 years, what would I wish to include?

I think I would want to say *Thank U Very Much* for the warm, loving, supportive parish family that I have come to know and respect as good friends over the last 10 years. I would like to put on record my appreciation of the *Well Dones!* when I got things right but to also acknowledge the loving, patient, prayerful correction on those occasions when I got things wrong. I would like to say *Thank U Very Much* for your love, prayers, and support over the last ten years, both in the good times, of which there have been many, and in the bad times, of which there have been a few. I would like to say *Thank U Very Much* for your advice and your wisdom, for your fun and your laughter, for your cups of coffee, cakes and biscuits that seemed to appear as if by magic everywhere I turned up and for bringing those skills and talents that I didn't possess myself into situations that I couldn't manage myself. *Thank U Very Much* for stepping up and doing things often in secret that kept the parish on the move. And finally, I would like to say *Thank U Very Much* for the recent kind words, letters, cards, and gifts which Helen and I have received as we prepare to move on to pastures new in Blackpool.

I *Thank U Very Much*, but above all I thank God for everything He has done both in our lives as a family and in the life of the parish. Throughout the changing seasons and landscapes of my time here, the one constant has been God's presence, power, and love. In both the green pastures and the valleys, He has been faithful, and I know that He will always be alongside you as a parish in the years that lie ahead regardless of how much the landscape might change. Although Helen and I will be moving on to new challenges and opportunities in Blackpool, the Parish of Kidderminster East will be in our thoughts and prayers many times in the future.

Thank U Very Much and God be with you all.

Robert