

Advent 2, 10 December 2006
HC Wirksworth

John Baptist
Difficult man
JB was evasive. Who am I?
What would we make of him?

Honey
Locusts – I'm a celebrity – get me out of here
Forerunner?
Why was he so off-putting? Even in that context at that time? Would it not have suited Jesus' message more to have a smooth-as-silk spin doctor? Well since they ooze insincerity from every pore, perhaps not.
Bad medicine etc.
Apocalyptic – mistake

So, a difficult man
Short shrift if he turned up in most Anglican churches today
God is Englishman – Germany recently
JB was certainly an outsider

Can learn much from outsiders

Only way that new things happen
Otherwise stagnation
People need to push at edges all the time – crucifixion is hat results for them, but progress for everyone else
And that we can learn from someone younger than ourselves
I know this at the moment -

And also message for ourselves

I'm big on the psychological message of the gospel
Examples – children, attachments, poverty
And sometimes the things that jolt us into thinking that something needs attention is a niggle inside that we vehemently deny – inconvenient like the Baptist

Thos inner voices that we would like to ignore – too inconvenient
May

Paul's conversion – things niggled at him, and then something overwhelmed him

Apocalyptic – mistake
Christianity is a religion of failed prophecies – but lots of hope