



Go Deeper, 5th March 2023 - AMA

Dear Miners,

I hope you found this week's Ask me Anything sessions useful. As before, we deliberately didn't record the 1st service, so that those in the room with personal comments or questions could speak in a slightly safer way – we don't all want our thoughts on YouTube! We spent most of our time at the 9:15 on this question:

- *When your husband / wife / family member dies as a Christian and they go to be with Jesus, how does the Lord comfort and look after those left behind?*

The sense we gathered in the room is that much of the comfort people at church in such situations have known came through other Christians; their prayerful and patient company, their love, their willingness to sit in the pain with the person grieving, to speak the name of the dead relative when others might find that too awkward. I mentioned the Psalms, which have always comforted me – God's people have been comforted by bringing their honest pain, fear and even anger to God for thousands of years; church should still be a safe place to do that. We can't offend God with our honesty! I also spoke about the mysterious peace I have known in difficult moments, when even though I was sad or angry, I was somehow aware of God's love within it; that I was not ok, but ok with being not ok.

This is certainly a question worth exploring, as are those below.

Other questions we addressed in the session we recorded are:

- *Do you think that the closer you get to God the more the devil tries to sabotage your faith?*
- *How and why did they build the first churches?*
- *What's a Warden? More information coming soon, but ask Dan, or Sandra, or Kath, or Sylvia, or John, or Pauline...*
- *Why is that only bishops and archbishops do confirmation, not vicars?*

Things we didn't have time to get to were:

- *Why do we all still drink from a common cup, post covid? Can we change this? (Because we're Anglicans, it's relatively safe, you should feel free to have just bread if you like, and no – to be succinct!)*
- *What's happening in Prayer Ministry at the moment? (It's coming soon!)*
- *What's the difference between Anglicans, Baptists and Methodists? (We will do this, but until then, ask Roy!)*

I Hope that helps – do keep asking and wrestling!

Every blessing

Rob