



## Pastor's Page

### ***Making the cross count***

The door bell rang and I knew that I hadn't got time to engage in a long conversation with anyone. Suspecting it was someone trying to sell me new windows (what's wrong with my windows anyway?!) I quickly rehearsed my line as I walked to the door ...*"Sorry I don't own the house...no I'm not a tenant the house is owned by the church I'm the minister and I need to get at least two quotes for any work required then bring them to a by-monthly church meeting where there would be a vote and if your quote gets the required support we may then be in a position to proceed with the work"* At this point they usually politely say "thank-you" and leave! However on this occasion as I opened the door I realised that it wasn't a couple of double glazing salesmen but a man that I knew (in a away) – it was our local councillor canvassing for his party.

Now you might think I would have been keen to get rid of him but far from it, I nearly asked him for his autograph! However, I regained my composure and impressively (without looking at a recently delivered flyer of his) got his name right! He, his colleague and I then chatted about the general election, how well his leader had done the night before on the historic prime ministerial debate (I 'crept' a little!) and then I confessed to being a 'floating voter!' "I'm open to being persuaded to vote for your party" I said to which he smiled from ear to ear (I just love making people happy!) He then tried to convince me of why I should. As the conversation concluded I didn't commit myself but said I would seriously consider it because being a Christian I believe that it's very important to vote.

I do think that's its important for Christians to vote as I believe that its another way of being 'salt and light' in the world (Matthew 5:13-14) We are called to make a difference in God's world and voting in elections is part of this. It's a way to engage with our leaders those in authority (the bible says God has established them (Rom 13:1) and let them know what matters to us and what we care about.

The 'Christian voice' can make a difference in this country. The Sunday Telegraph recently reported that a bid to place Christian values at the heart of the general election campaign has been launched with a 'declaration of conscience' endorsed by senior figures from various Christian denominations calling on politicians to 'protect the right of Christians' to hold their beliefs and 'act according to Christian conscience'. These values include; protecting human life, protecting marriage, and protecting freedom of conscience which the Christian group say are foundational for creating and maintaining strong families, caring communities and a just society. Doesn't our Christian faith compel us to speak and act in defence of all these? The declaration also says "As UK citizens we affirm our Christian commitment both to exercise social responsibility in working for the common good and also to be subject to all governing authorities and obey them except when they require us to act unjustly." So maybe politicians are listening to Christians which suggests that we need to know what we believe and that we should listen to them in order to know what they believe.

I'm still not sure if I'll vote for Dave but I'll definitely vote. So what about you?

18<sup>th</sup> April 2010