

Thoughts from the Prayer Corner 10

Puzzles



I wonder how many of you have taken up jigsaw puzzling over the past few lockdown months? I usually do 3 over the Christmas period, the first of which helps me train my eye to recognise the different pieces, but as I was working on the puzzle above certain thoughts came to mind.

The planned approach – sorting out the outside edges to make the framework or the boundaries. Sometimes we are comfortable living within the boundaries that we set for ourselves, but how do we react when God asks us to step out of the familiar? Similarly, what would our reaction be as a Church family if we were asked to move in a different direction?

Framework established, and with the picture as a guide, sorting out groups of colour can be the next approach and placing joined up sections somewhere in the centre, which reminded me of our own family and friends groups. True of both our personal and Church lives, over a period of time they often interact with one another, perhaps through social events.

As more pieces are added, so the picture begins to reveal itself, but there are always blank areas, which, even with the help of the photograph, are still difficult to both find and place. Sometimes it is easier then to work outside of the main jigsaw with small groups of puzzle pieces which fit together as in the picture above. This reminded me of family groups or individuals who may be waiting to join our Church family. Each with their own set of skills and gifts, all of which are needed within our community. Within the current restrictions this may be difficult at the moment, but will we be ready to welcome them at the appropriate time?

Finally, the jigsaw is almost done, save for one or two pieces. Why is it that the least likely of pieces seem to fill the void and what does that tell us? Relating one answer with prayer, we know that God hears all our prayers but so often we don't recognise the answers because they are not the ones that we expected. Like those last puzzle pieces, the perfect answer, the perfect time and place, just not quite what we thought!