

Cut down to size

Quote of the week:

'One of the children, if they happen to be somewhere with us and see me on telly, may come up and pat me on the head and say: "Dad, you think you're important. I think you're old and bald" ...and you just feel 100 times better!'



Justin Welby in conversation with John Cleese. (BBC 4, 4th June)

A very young family member proclaimed: "I'm not a Christian; I don't wear those silly clothes Christians wear!" (*Cassocks and Vestments?*) We all thrive on encouragement, yet it can be beneficial to be cut down to size, especially by our children. Who better to suss out who we really are, rather than the grown-up trying to look important. Who better to love us in spite of how silly we look!

Jesus said 'Unless you become as children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven' (*Matt18.3*). Children are disarmingly honest and unpretentious.

It's good to be reminded that we are simply all children of God and that God, like a wise and loving parent, has no favourites – just loves us regardless of who we might think we are, or who we might wish we were. God simply relies on each of us to take an active part in the body of Christ to sustain and safeguard the welfare of the world. Jesus didn't build a church on a team of qualified experts, but on a random group of men and women willing to stop, look and listen to divine common sense and get involved in the messy side of life.

On being 'cut down to size' we could learn a thing or two from trees. Trees don't give up living when they're cut down – they start growing again. Olives and vines are especially adept at it. It's helpful to remember that pruning brings strength and fruitfulness. So when you're cut down to size – just start growing again.

If I were a butterfly, I'd thank you, Lord for giving me wings.

If I were a robin in a tree, I'd thank you, Lord, that I could sing.

If I were a fish in the sea, I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee,
but I just thank you, Father, for making me 'me'!