

# What is the Church for?

Restoring our vision of the Church

## The Doctrine of Election

- *"You did not choose me, but I chose you..."*  
(John 15.16)
- The Grounds of God's Choice
- The Purpose of God's Choice
- *"All peoples on earth will be blessed by you."* (Gen. 12.3)

## 1 Peter 2.1-3, 9

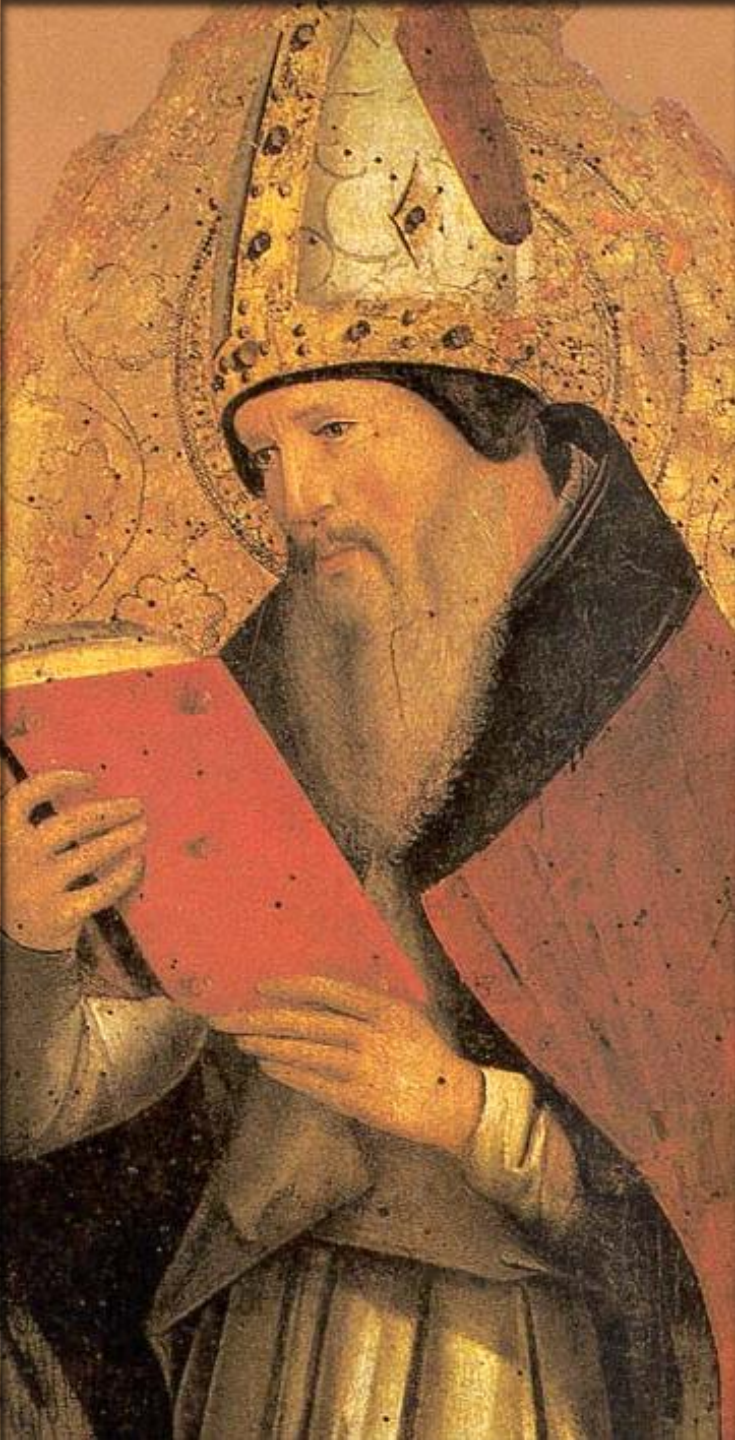
*Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good...:*

*...But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, **that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.***

## 1. Declaring the Praises of God to God

### The Church Exists to Offer **Worship**

- *Will you faithfully minister the doctrine and sacraments of Christ as the Church of England has received them, so that the people committed to your charge may be defended against error and flourish in the faith?*
- *Being a Worshipper*
- *Leading in Worship*
- *Teaching to Pray*



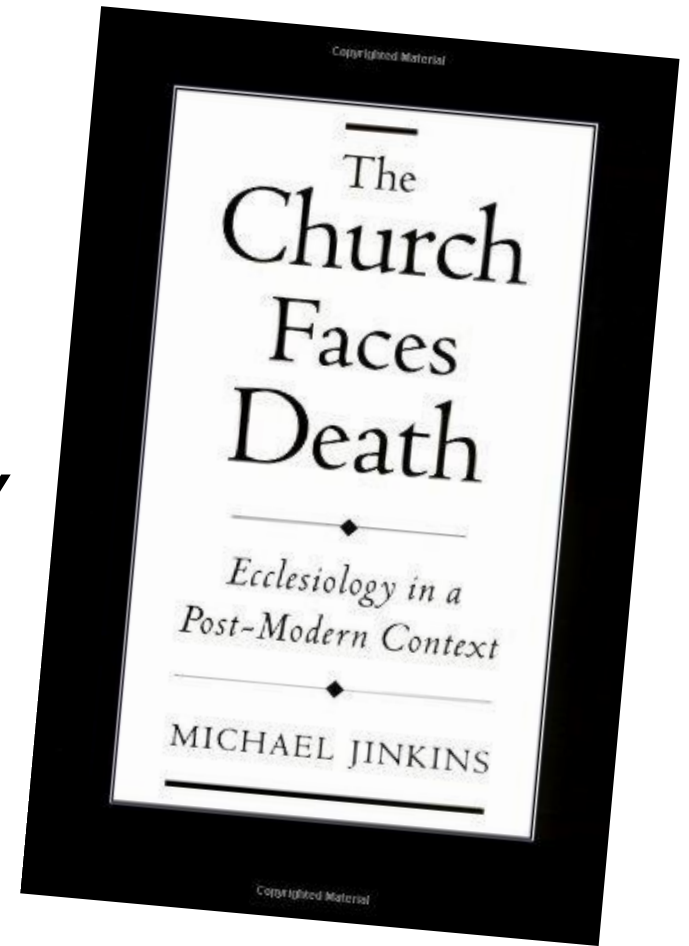
"Everything that is done in rightly worshipping God is of profit not to God but to man. For no one would say that he intended to help a fountain by drinking from it or a light by seeing it."

*St Augustine, City of God*

DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
SURVIVAL

*“The church is most attractive when it pursues its own vocation unconcerned with its own survival.”*

Michael Jenkins



## 2. Declaring the Praises of God to the World

# The Church exists to bear **Witness**

*Will you lead Christ's people in proclaiming his glorious gospel, so that the good news of salvation may be heard in every place?*

## Compassion

- *The Blind receive sight*
- *The Lame walk*
- *The Lepers cleansed*
- *The Deaf hear*
- *The Poor have good news preached to them*

# Evangelism



*"The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved, to point him out, to make him known? If we do not feel an intense desire to share this love, we need to pray insistently that he will once more touch our hearts. We need to implore his grace daily, asking him to open our cold hearts and shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence."*





“It is impossible to persevere in a fervent evangelization unless we are convinced from personal experience that it is not the same thing to have known Jesus as not to have known him, not the same thing to walk with him as to walk blindly, not the same thing to hear his word as not to know it, and not the same thing to contemplate him, to worship him, to find our peace in him, as not to. It is not the same thing to try to build the world with his Gospel as to try to do so by our own lights. We know well that with Jesus life becomes richer and that with him it is easier to find meaning in everything. This is why we evangelize. A true missionary, who never ceases to be a disciple, knows that Jesus walks with him, speaks to him, breathes with him, works with him. He senses Jesus alive with him in the midst of the missionary enterprise. Unless we see him present at the heart of our missionary commitment, our enthusiasm soon wanes and we are no longer sure of what it is that we are handing on; we lack vigour and passion. A person who is not convinced, enthusiastic, certain and in love, will convince nobody.”

### 3. Growing in **Wisdom**

“Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?”

“.... Crave the pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good...”

### 3. Growing in **Wisdom**

## The Church exists to grow in **Wisdom**

“crave the pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good...”

*“Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?”*

*Will you endeavour to fashion your own life and that of your household according to the way of Christ, that you may be a pattern and example to Christ’s people?*

*Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged, and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened. Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit*

### 3. Growing in Wisdom

- *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3.12-13)*
- *“that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless....” (Phil 1.9-10)*

Worship

Witness

Wisdom

*Is the balance right in  
your life?*

*Is the balance right in  
your church?*