Crowland Abbey

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PRIEST IN CHARGE

Here's the church, and here's the steeple, open the door and see all the people.

Looking at the nursery rhyme and comparing it to the Church today, it makes me wonder, is that what people actually think of the Church? Is it a building with a bunch of people who use big words and have crazy doctrines? The people are boring, the worship service is blah. The sermon is condemning and you leave church feeling the same way you came, now condemned and a little confused. Why do I even bother going in the first place? Is this why people stay away from church?

I believe the church has a responsibility to be a shining light for the world to see, reaching out to those people who are lost. The church should be the first source for those that need the love of God in their lives. But what is the driving force behind most people's attitude towards the traditional church? Is it fear? Do they believe in God less now a days? Are they looking for answers instead of just pomp and circumstance?

It's all too much when all God wants is just you.

The one thing that is abundantly obvious to me is that church should be a place of worship. It should be a place that where everyone will experience the presence of God whether they realize it or not. It should be a place where you feel welcome. It should be a place where you feel at home. It should be a place where God is always present. It doesn't matter what you wear or whether you sit or stand up at the wrong time in a Service.

People are not perfect and neither is the Church. I think people forget that as Priests. we too have problems and situations that frustrate us, disappoint and even sadden us.

Times have changed and the Church has to change right along with it, based wholly on God's word.

For me, the Church is a place of fellowship, experiencing corporate worship in unity with other believers. I don't know about you, but I feel going to church is an important part of my walk and I don't ever want to miss hearing a fresh new word, but I don't feel guilty if I don't make it every Sunday morning. Because the idea of church is not about the building, it's the body of Christ as a whole, expanding His kingdom.

Rev Mike