

Thought for the day – Tuesday 15th February 2022

By Revd John Marshall

Christ the worker



The altar piece of the chapel at Wychcroft is the wonderful icon of Christ the Worker. In the early days of the Southwark Ordination Course, it was preparing worker priests (or ministers in secular employment, as well as others) But the picture of Christ the Worker I loved.

I wasn't very good at wood work at school – although I did ask for woodwork tools when I was eight (and got them).

At church in the west window we can see Joseph working at his bench, and I am sure he passed on his skills to Jesus.

I found this poem by GA Studdert Kennedy in the Lion Book of Christian Poetry.

Work

Close by the careless worker's side,

Still patient stands

The Carpenter of Nazareth,
With pierced hands
Outstretched to plead unceasingly,
His love's demands.

Longing to pick the hammer up
And strike a blow,
Longing to feel his plane swing out
Steady and slow.

The fragrant shavings falling down,
Silent as snow.

Because this is my work, O Lord,

It must be thine,

Because it is a human task

It is divine.

Take me, and brand me with Thy cross,

Thy slave's proud sign.

Let us pray for all those who live out their Christian faith in the world of work
and the community.