

Just looked back at my piece in last month's magazine; went on a bit, didn't it... But strange how several people were all thinking the same thing at the same time. So, not only did our local churches raise somewhere between £600-700 for one particular Christian worker in Haiti, but the community has a new spring flower just coming into bud: clubi youthicae. It really can work, this "having a go" malarky. So, well done all who put your money where my mouth was; well done all who are putting themselves forward to make our community youth club a reality.

Of course, neither of these enterprises will make constant progress. In Haiti, Ramiro, the man in question, will need our continuing prayers. So will the success of the youth club, because there will always be challenges in such undertakings - most of which will be the problem of us, the adults, who, by and large, seem to have short memories when it comes to our own younger days. Coming alongside our youngsters from time to time will demand of us a struggle with all sorts of issues, probably the root cause of which will be that we try to hoist our expectations onto them. Sometimes that's right and borne out of well tried and tested experience that needs to be passed on. Other times we might simply be exercising a bit of old fashioned prejudice. Knowing the difference is why we need to pray about it.

So how's your Lent going? Have you taken on an extra discipline, or an extra time of prayer, or perhaps given up something dear to you for a while? Well, I hope you're giving it a go. Like the issues in the previous paragraph, you'd be surprised what a difference we can make to our own life and the lives around us when we put ourselves out a bit.

There was a man who put himself out for everyone a couple of thousand years ago. That wasn't plain sailing either; it had it's ups and downs. But it made all the difference.