



### 'CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD'

A well known painting by William Holman Hunt (1827 – 1910).

There may have been a copy of it on the wall of your Sunday School or classroom? It shows Christ as the 'Light of the World', carrying a lantern (beautiful details, see below). He is knocking on the door of an old forgotten shed – (abandoned by gunpowder workers in the grounds of the house where Holman Hunt was staying at the time). The door has not been opened for a long time. Weeds, nettles and brambles grow up the door. Jesus stands there and knocks – and waits to meet the people inside. There is no handle or latch on the door. It can only be opened by those inside. If a caller wants to get inside, the door must be opened by someone inside.

*'Behold! I stand at the door and knock.'*  
(Rev. 3.v.20)

The person inside has the choice to let the caller, - in this case Jesus, in or not as they choose.

In some regimes around the world you have no free choice. You must do what you are told to do. Jesus is different. He gives us free choice. He respects our free will. He lets us choose if we open the door to him or not. If we let him into our lives or not. Our Gospel reading this week is about rejection or being rejected. Jesus feels he has been rejected by the people of his home town. They knew him as a carpenter, not as a preacher or healer. Jesus was hurt and surprised by this, no one likes to be rejected. He sends the disciples out two by two. He tells them not to take anything for their journey, to travel light. If they are not welcome they are to leave that place and move on. Jesus will not reject us. He is waiting for us to open the door. He is waiting for us to invite him in.

*'Behold! I stand at the door and knock.'*

