



## Prophets and Seers: Ann Memmott



Autistic, arthritis, faceblind, spinal scoliosis, cancer survivor

Follower of Christ

Matthew 5:13

Salt and Light

“You are the salt of the earth....”

Something vital for life.

Without it, food often tastes bland and pointless.

Without it, we die.

“You are the salt of the earth....”

Do disabled people keep faith fresh?

Do disabled people prevent faith groups from ‘silting up’?

Do disabled people help prevent others from slipping into glib ableist ideals, in our faith?

Matthew 5: 14-16: Light

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven”

Do some disabled people hide from the world out of fear?

Is the light we bring to it hidden by others, and what is their motivation?

Stuck in “Charity Mode”:

The Disabled Christian as Tragedy or Eternal Child

Disabled people are victims, to be pitied. Our situation is tragic, and we are suffering.

Or we are eternal children who are a set of ‘behaviours’

Example: A church charity College for disabled young adults 19+

“A minority of students access sexuality and relationship education... too few progress into voluntary work or supported employment... Students learn to manage their behaviour well”

### **Anger**

If Jesus is angry, that’s good.

If non-disabled people are angry, that’s understandable.

If I am angry, it is a behaviour to be analysed, managed, and prevented.

Prophecy and Religious Inspiration

Non-disabled? Prophet, or inspired by God.

Disabled? "Poor dear is having delusions"

**Disabled Christian Leaders, or Tokens?**

How it feels to be the 'prophet' – to speak truth to power

How do we speak truth to power?

**Uncomfortable Truths from the Edge - Autism**

Are we seen as potential prophets? As leaders of faith that have very real things to bring to understanding of God?

Or 'just charity advocates'?

**A prayer**

Loving God, we are called by you.

We are called by name.

We are called, as we are.

We are called, through your grace, to be our authentic selves.

Our calling is from the edge.

Help it be a powerful call. For truth, for love, for friendship, for true enablement.

For mutual sharing and learning.

In the name of Jesus, our Lord

Amen