



## **Dynamo Light**

Perhaps it was growing up in the power-cuts of the early seventies, but I tend to collect lamps and torches of all kinds - and am always ready to be persuaded of the need to buy another. The least satisfactory I've ever owned, however, was the dynamo light fitted to my bicycle as a boy. The basic problem was that this depended on you to keep pedalling – so along a flat road, the light would shine nicely, but grew dimmer climbing a hill and became a sad glow by the time you reached the top. Its crucial flaw, however, became evident as soon as you had to stop at a junction. Then, at the very point when you most needed to be seen by other road users, the light would desert you.

For those serving the local church, it can be all too easy to think that, if we just pedal a bit harder, the light will shine a bit brighter. The trouble is that, when the road gets rough and steep, or a crossroads is reached, our energies and hope can fade, like the beam of the dynamo.

John's Gospel reassures us that the light of life is generated by God's work, not ours – and powered by his glory. Glory is our one inexhaustible energy supply: an eternal current that anyone must connect to if they really want to live. It shines from the relationship between Jesus and his heavenly father, empowered by the Holy Spirit. This divine dynamo, we learn, charges most powerfully at the points where human resources give out - when the wine runs dry at the wedding, or the well is deep and you don't have a bucket. And where this glory shines most brightly, we find, is the cross of Christ, that fatal junction where all else turns to darkness.

None of us is especially luminous on our own: we are the light of the world only with Christ shining through us. May he renew our strength and our hope as we turn to him.

*+Andrew Ramsbury*