

# LISTENING AND HEARING

By Bill Pugh



“Did you hear what I said?” Are you really listening to me?” How often do parents and teachers use those words. Making sure the message has really been heard and understood. In the Book of Revelation John writes letters to seven churches with important pastoral advice. He ends each letter with the same conclusion: “Let anyone who has an ear, listen to what the spirit is saying to the churches.”

The messages address special challenges for each Christian community and need action. Because the Spirit is speaking,

they are not mere words which go in one ear and out the other. For example, in writing to Laodicea, a community which has everything except a cold water supply, because water is piped to each home from hot springs and is lukewarm when it arrives .Which makes the domestic supply unpalatable. The Spirit warns the Church not to be lukewarm in witness if it is to be effective. Each of the seven letters has a strong message which applies now as well as then. They challenge our most attentive reading and listening skills because the Spirit has a message for each of us today

## *Reflection:*

*In the service today, many words have been read, spoken and sung. Somewhere there will be a Spirit message for you, and your Church, to hear and act upon.*