**Ideas for encountering God through action:**

These are a few suggestions to get you thinking. Many Christians have only fully discovered the richness of our faith when we have started to live it out in practical ways. Serving the vulnerable, visiting people in hospital, working with young people challenge us to step out of our comfort zone and to trust God. Look around your church and community to see where God might be calling you to serve. Talk to the leaders in your church if you are unsure where your gifts could be most needed.

* Over one day cultivate an “attitude of gratitude” for the day. Thank God for each new task, and for what he has given you to enable you to do this task (health, strength, opportunity, skills, resources etc.) If you find it helpful think about how regular thankfulness could change your attitude to daily routines.
* Mend something that has been waiting for your attention for a while – as you do so reflect on how God has been at work mending broken parts of your life. Are there areas or relationships that still need attention?
* Pray for all your colleagues, the people you meet at the school gate, etc. Then take them some cake or fruit to bless them.
* Say a silent prayer of blessing over your workplace each time you arrive for work. You could write your own prayer on a card and have it somewhere handy to use each time. Why not look out for opportunities for ‘Random acts of kindness.’ One colleague created a little goody bag for each of the people in their workplace. Notice the difference this makes to relationships and morale.
* Volunteer at a local one-off event or regular activity in your church or community.
* Read Luke 6.30-31. Think about where you live. Is there a neighbour who would be grateful for some help – perhaps work on the garden, babysitting, a surprise gift of a meal.
* Gather a group of friends to clean up an area of rubbish or graffiti within your local community. Reflect on 1 Corinthians 10.24 and 10.31-33 and think about how it speaks into your acts of service.
* If your church supports local or international charities, what could you do to help support them? – perhaps by forming a small group of friends and organizing a fundraiser.
* Some Churches support Churches Against Poverty (CAP) who are always looking for volunteer befrienders, you could even train as a debt coach.