

## Helen Rowe's Candle Story

This handmade candleholder and wooden cross were made by friends in the Common Rule. Seeing these objects on my mantelpiece brings to mind my friends scattered around Victorian towns and cities. Although we are a dispersed Christian community, often only meeting up on Advent Sunday and at the annual camp, we are bound together through our shared commitment. Members of the Rule commit to observance of a daily discipline – Bible reading, keeping silence, praying for each other, and praying a common prayer. The Common Rule is a way of developing connections between people who might otherwise have little to do with each other: city or country dwellers; those who are called to public activism and those who are called to inconspicuous service; those who are sure of what they believe and those who struggle with doubt; those who feel at home in the church and those who feel estranged from the church.

