



Churchwarden's Letter

Dear Friends

As I sit down to write this letter the sun is shining, the sky is blue and all the spring flowers and blossoms are out in abundance. Yet this is one of the most solemn, thought provoking times on the Christian calendar. We are coming into Holy Week, His ride into Jerusalem on a donkey, the Last Supper, His betrayal by Judas, His trial, His death upon the Cross and finally on Easter Day His glorious resurrection. All these things will have taken place by time you read your magazine but hopefully you will have had time to reflect on the greatness of God's love for us.

During Lent some of us attended the course based on the "Living God's Love Prayer" which asks us to "Live your life with generosity, joy, imagination and courage". These meetings have made us examine our own personal lives, the life of our church and the worldwide church. Sitting with a group of people listening to their thoughts and ideas has I am sure been beneficial to us all. We need these times to put our thoughts into words and may be have them questioned by other people, it makes us aware of the variety of ways people "Live God's Love".

God in His loving generosity created the world and humankind. This love and generosity is seen most clearly in the life, teaching, suffering death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son".

The one place in the Bible where we discover the most about joy is in the Psalms, the Psalmist was not afraid of expressing joy. It is life-affirming and can be life-changing, joy is what we experience when we live out values and convictions that are deep and solid and strong.

Martin Luther King's famous "I have a dream" speech addressed the imagination of the crowd. The process of creating something new always comes from imagining it in advance, both in creating things or as in Martin Luther King's speech in imagining a new world. We often use the word "inspiration" to mean this kind of imagination – the creativity He gave us when He made us in his own image.

We all live with our fears – not least in relation to how we live our faith. God has promised that He will always be with us, He will give us the courage to overcome our fears and face dark times when they come to us.

Let us all try, as we live in the knowledge of the depth of God's love for us, go out and be heralds of the Good News.

Best wishes

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