

Dear friends,

In these peculiar times we are living through two things in particular have struck me, the first is the extraordinary kindnesses that are happening in our villages between neighbours and strangers – the offers of help, the kind words, the ‘going the extra mile’ for someone else- and possibly at a potential risk to ourselves.



Some of the debates in our country in the last few years have left more division than cohesion - the Brexit debate, debates on immigration, how to best deal with the threat of extremism, to name a few. All this has left us a little bruised and sometimes mistrusting of each other.

What is emerging in our country and communities is a renewed hope, in the light of something we would not have wanted and is totally out of our control, but that may perhaps bring about the healing that society and communities need – to renew trust, to look out for each other, to shield the frail, the sick and the vulnerable amongst us – whoever they are, and to build community.

I believe that hope comes from God, we are called to be a people of hope, and it is hope that will ultimately set us apart as a community that thrives when the COVID-19 pandemic has passed.

The second thing that has struck me is how steadfast and faithful God is. The beauty and diversity in nature we now have time to enjoy proclaims the glory and the steadfast faithfulness of God as the seasons turn and the earth is refreshed and renewed, decked out in beauty.

I am sure that when we emerge from this pandemic we will be changed. My prayer is that this refreshed sense of community will continue and will be at the heart again of who we are; That in the building up of a community of love, one act of kindness at a time, we will realise what a blessing we are to each other.

I also pray that the Christian hope and reassurance that after the storm comes blue skies, a sign visible outside as buds push up from the ground and blossom bursts forth from the hedgerows, will also blossom in our hearts – hope for our world, for all that God has made and for each other.

Revd Ruth

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

