



PASTORAL LETTER 10/2/2021



When I watched the film *Shadowlands* I was struck by one line it attributed to C.S. Lewis. He talked about the time between the end of October and the end of January as God's waiting room for the world. I don't know whether Lewis ever said this, but it does make sense.

If we look around us now we can see evidence of rebirth – the world is waking up, we are out of the 'waiting room'. This week I was sitting outside the crematorium in Shrewsbury with the sun falling on my face and I felt the first signs of warmth. I look round the manse garden and it is full of snowdrops, and the daffodils are coming on apace. I always love to have daffodils out of the garden brought into the house on St. David's Day – I never have shop bought ones! Some years I might only have one daffodil, other years many, but for me I am starting to bring the spring in.

It is at times like this that we really need to look at all the good things that are happening. The rollout of the vaccine is wonderful, and fast! We are starting to see one another, without masks, on zoom. We are learning new things, and engaging in ways that we would not have thought possible a year ago. I may have said this before but I'm a glass half full type of person, I try to look at what is good, not what is bad in the world.

I thought that it would be helpful to look at Jesus' positivity. Here are some pointers:

1. He taught us not to be afraid – this is about knowing that, through faith, our worst fears may not come to pass. We adjust our actions according to circumstance, and don't descend into extreme fear.
2. Jesus told us not to worry about anything at all – easier said than done, but Jesus has always issued challenges to us. We need to offer up all our worries and cares in prayer.
3. We have been asked not to judge – we cannot know everything, only God can, and Jesus tells that we are not the people to judge. We need to try to understand and help those who do not understand.
4. Forgive everyone – not there's a challenge! But those who forgive often find gifts in that act of forgiveness that allow them to move forwards.

So these are just some of Jesus's challenges to us which help with positivity of thought. Maybe you can think of some more?

On another note, we are beginning to look at how we worship on Zoom, and from the 21st February, initially every fortnight, we will have a time of worship at 10.30 for round about half an hour. This is going to be a bit of a learning curve for me, as I start to explore how worship works on Zoom. I'm hoping that I will also have other volunteers soon who will be happy to either take part or lead a session themselves.

So until next time.....



Stay safe, every blessing,

Jacquie