

Reflection – Travelling Through Life

Perhaps because I have had the privilege of taking a number of funerals recently, my thoughts have been very much on the theme of life as a journey. Taking assembly at the village primary school this week also reminded me of travelling on as the year six pupils look forward, with a mixture of excitement and trepidation in moving on to a new, much bigger school and the younger ones move from their familiar classrooms to a new space and new teacher.

Life just doesn't stay the same for very long and often, it is only as we look back, that we notice the changes as we travel on our earthly journey. Sometimes we choose to make changes. Sometimes we have no option or are persuaded by someone else. Some changes are welcome. Others bring catastrophe into our lives.

The media tends to stress the unpleasant changes, shocking us to the depths of our very being with images of terrorist attacks, that horrendous inferno in the Grenfell Tower Block, vengeance attacks using a vehicle as a weapon or even spraying acid in strangers' faces. In an instant, the familiar is changed for ever, as people mourn the loss of loved ones or their health, wait for news of missing people, have their homes or way of life shattered.

I am sure that there will be agonizing prayers, asking God to intervene, as if waving a magic wand. Sometimes all that you can do is to pray, but the answer is far more likely to come via compassionate human beings than miraculously out of nowhere.

It has been heartening in all these tragedies, to see the response of ordinary people, generously donating food, clothing, household necessities, skills, time and money. Some are people of faith, inspired by their beliefs but perhaps all are touched by human need.

Often after such an event, people will speak of their experience of an inner strength, which they did not know that they had. Christians know this as the work of the Holy Spirit, the Strengthener, helping us on life's journey.

The Bible is full of stories of journeys, reminding us that this is part of who we are. There is also the journey in the understanding of who God is, moving on from the old man up in the sky above a flat earth, through a fearsome being ready to punish wrongdoers or even innocent people, to the God of love demonstrated by Jesus, but glimpsed in the writings of many of the prophets. Our response is concisely summarized by Micah. 'He has told you, O mortal what is good and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God'. Good advice as we journey on.

Ros Murphy

Welford Methodist Church Services

(at 11 am unless indicated otherwise)

August 6th Morning worship arranged by congregation

August 13th Holy Communion Ros Murphy

August 20th Morning worship TBA

August 27th No service here. On 4th Sundays there are services at Stratford, Bidford or Mickleton, all at 10.30

For dates further ahead, please consult the church notice board or the Parish website:
welfordonavon.com/community/institutions/methodistchurch