

Easter Hope

In my garden there's an apple tree and at this time of year a small miracle occurs beneath its branches each day. As the sun rises and warms the grass, hundreds and hundreds of tiny celandines begin to open and spread out their shiny pointed petals, so by the middle of the day the green grass has become almost-all bright yellow, seeming to be a sea of smiling flowery faces. And when I see it, despite all that's going on in this country and the world around us, I cannot help but feel a surge of joy and hope.

This weekend is Easter, a time of joyous hope in the Christian calendar, when we rejoice and celebrate because of what Jesus has done for us. Jesus, God's only Son, who came to us in human form, led a blameless life, never doing a single wrong to anyone, and yet was prepared to die a painful and humiliating death on a cross in order to take our wrongdoing upon himself and free us from the guilt of it. Jesus has risen from the dead and is alive and with us today.

In the midst of this horrid corona virus crisis I'm so grateful to all those in our villages who are supporting others less able; perhaps providing a friendly listening ear on the telephone or collecting and delivering prescriptions and groceries or helping in other ways. Their selfless personal sacrifices remind me of Jesus and I'd like to join with everyone in saying a huge 'thank you' for all they are doing to help us get through this together.

I'm also heartened to hear on the news about how a catering business was turned around to feed medical staff, volunteers are hand-sewing much-needed scrubs for their local hospital, and a hospice appealing for a few food donations was overwhelmed by the enormous response...

These stories and many others like them are more evidence of God's love at work in our country today. We may not always recognise him in the midst of the darkness but, just like all those celandines that seem to die at night, God is still with us, very much alive, His steadfast love is everlasting and His light will overcome this situation we find ourselves in.

We must trust and wait and hope. If you would like to pray, there are a few ideas on the following pages.

Adam



God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation,
in their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



O God,
Help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen