

Dear Grayshott,

March 2020

The news is full of disasters, the spread of the Coronavirus, floods, the war in Syria is horrifying, and I expect that most of us feel impotent to help. These are external crises demanding everything of those who are involved in them. We are watching things change on national scales in front of our eyes, nations threatening to go into recession because of their inability to manufacture products. The impact of the virus, and perhaps the floods have been impossible to predict, and yet they are having a huge impact. What touches us about these overwhelming circumstances is the personal stories.

How people react to the stress of those situations is determined by an internal economy of character, faith, security, hope and love. Some of us may have seen the extraordinary image of one of the Bali bombers embracing the son of one of his victims, asking for forgiveness. A transforming moment. Jesus in Mark 4 said to his disciples: Do you still have no faith? He had been with them for a while already, taught them and they had seen extraordinary things, and they still didn't 'get it'. We too can get stuck in a mind-set, with assumptions about how things work, and fail to step into a new understanding. In the disciples case it is partly because his message was to trust in the character of God, rather than oneself.

The Church calendar is now into lent, the period of preparation for Good Friday, the day Jesus was crucified, and Easter, the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. The purpose of Lent is for individuals to search their inner landscape, and review their attitudes, priorities, and focus in life. There are people in the floods having to throw away precious things that have been wrecked. Sometimes it is good to assess if there are things that we need to get rid of that we don't need that we have been carrying in our hearts. Clearing out, cleansing, refreshing, spring cleaning our inner landscape. Making room for trusting God and receiving his love.

At St Luke's, we are a community working out what that looks like, and growing our trust in God, growing faith, even from small beginnings. We are wanting to 'get' what Jesus taught, and be transformed one by one. Do come and join us as we seek to grow. No pressure, no expectations, just come and see. You will be welcomed at any of our services.

With love,
Jeremy and Claire

Rev, Jeremy Haswell
Vicar of St Luke's, Grayshott