

Thought for the Day

Over the past few weeks I have found that a routine is very helpful. Mine includes regular time in the garden before lunch, a bike ride after lunch and then more gardening. These outdoor activities mean that everytime I have had a negative or worrying thought I have found a positive one to balance it!

Positive thoughts and happenings have included:

- the way a forgotten amaryllis bulb from last year suddenly sprung to life in my conservatory,



-- the order that has been restored to my vegetable garden...which will be very useful if the supermarket shelves are bare through the summer.

-the first cuckoo this Spring which I heard yesterday in the garden



-riding my bike the hedgerows are so colourful, first with the wild daffodils, now replaced by the primroses, white stitchwort and the ubiquitous dandelion, not to mention the bluebells and violets that have appeared this week and today the first orchid!

Those of us with gardens are so fortunate at this time and as I work out there I am reminded of a lovely verse from Isaiah 58.11:

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sunscorched land and will strengthen you. You will be like a well watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

This verse is a reminder that God's faithfulness is constant. He doesn't promise us that our lives will be easy or painfree or go on for ever. At this time many of us are missing:

- **our friends and family** (though the telephone and Face Time help),

- a **hug** (though the “virtual” hug I was sent verbally over the phone the other day helped)

- **our usual Sunday worship** (though thank you Simon for our video services!

But what we do know is that however the corona virus came into our world ,God is using it to bring out His love, compassion and caring, in so many different ways and through so many different people who may not even recognise that they are using the God-given gift of love in response to the crisis, to help those around them.



Finally my “thought for today”turns to my little friend the robin who so often comes to say hallo in the garden. It was Lewis Pearson, our then Parish Community Worker, who first drew our attention to the religious significance of the robin in one of the first daily “Thoughts” he offered us. Now I am not superstitious but since that time, when I see a robin(said to be a symbol of hope and good luck) I am simply reminded that always our hope is in Christ, both now and in eternity.The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 91:

If you make the Lord your refuge...no evil will conquer you;no plague will come near your home. For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.(though maybe we should be aware that this only applies if we stick to the Government guidelines at ths time. If we take matters into our own hands the the devil sees his chance!!).