

Priests don't have a job description. Which is good because it allows us to be whatever we feel called to be - to meet the specific needs of the parish, to use our unique gifts as God calls us. It also means its hard for others to say - "you're not doing your job" - because no-one can really tell us what that is!

The closest we get to a job description is part of the ordination service, when we are told the kind of things that we should be about - which includes "watching for the signs of God's new creation".

Of course lots of God's new creation is in nature, and especially in spring time - we see buds opening, blossom appearing, the bees are buzzing and the swallows have returned to the church porch from Africa. All signs of God's new creation.

But during this virus, I've also need noticing other signs of God's re-creation. People using their gifts - of encouragement, of service. Some of these are the usual people, but some of them are new people discovering a calling, a gift, a way of following God. In these "thoughts for the day" there has been tremendous blossoming of people's spiritual lives. Again, some we might expect, but others who I certainly had no idea about. I didn't know about Joyce Davies's poems, or Rosemary's journey. I have been moved by the depth of what Jacky Dale or Angela Jordan have shared. And there has been art too. All these things, hidden underground to me, but now shared with the wider world.

It has been so healthy and good to see these signs of God's re-creation, to be reminded that its not just the vicar's opinion that matters, or only a few people who can connect with God, but that we **all** have something to share, we are **all** part of God's creation, we are all members of the Body of Christ.

God is busy re-creating us, making us his 'new creation'.

And there is another exciting new creation happening. In the midst of these difficult times, many people are getting a glimpse of a different kind of life - with different values, different ways of living. I've been surprised by some of the people I've spoken to, who I wouldn't have expected but who are saying - "I don't want things to go back to normal, I want to go somewhere different".

Is this a chance, not just for us or the church, but for the world to breathe in, and stop, and think differently about everything?

God be with you.

Rev Simon Woodley - 28th April 2020