

Prayers for 15th November 2020

The seasons change so quickly. Already we are well into autumn, when the leaves on the trees in the wood next to where I live are a wonderful mix of gold, bronze or yellow. Many of them are shedding acorns which are huge in size and massive in number. It seems like only yesterday that the same wood was a carpet of bluebells in the spring. Nature moves on at a great pace, changing overnight, it seems.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused great changes too to our way of life – in all its forms. We are trying to adapt and accept these changes which are not easy to take. People talk about the ‘new normal’, but I’m not really sure what that means.

I am just so pleased that one aspect of my life remains unchanged, and that is God’s presence. Just about everything has been changed in some way by Covid-19 – but not God. He is the same today as he was yesterday and will be tomorrow.

Our church calendar is moving on quickly – who could believe that wonderful word ‘Advent’ is beginning to enter our descriptions of Sundays? This week we will be in the Second Sunday before Advent. I can’t imagine how we will be able to celebrate Advent this year because of all these changes. Covid-19 will devastate our communal worship yet again, I fear.

So all we can do, I feel, is to remember that the God we worship is totally unchanged and is always there for us. Perhaps it would help to use this prayer:

Dear Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us ‘through all the changing scenes of life’. People, places and events may change but you do not. We can feel your changelessness always with us – lifting us up and supporting us. Give us the strength we need to carry on in this worrying and frightening time. In your name, Lord, Amen

And we pray for the recently departed Ann Ellis and Cecil Casterton and for all who are ill or may be sad and lonely, especially those who have lost family and friends recently and for whom life will never be the same again. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this week: Harry Nelson Brook, Peter Hallam, Joan Prosser, Fred Burgin, Rowland Dyson, Frederick Parkes, Ivan Edward Willis and Mildred Walker. Amen

Jan Teale