

All Saints Alive

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT



Celebrating Love.

Dear Friends,

Our church clock has been silent for several months now, but it has finally been overhauled and is now back in working order. It has been strange to see time seemingly stopped, but perhaps there is a lesson to be learned.

Time is measured for our convenience, but then it turns to make us hurry or judge us late. Roy Harper wrote and sang: *"How does it feel to have your God strapped to your wrist?"* and all too often it can feel that way. And it feels – challenging. We can be so busy with cramming things into our lives that we lose touch with what really matters.

The God whom we worship and serve wants us to follow his loving ways and to enjoy the fullness of life. This doesn't mean taking it too easy or opting out – far from it – but it is about finding the purpose of our being here and living in the light of that.

There are moments in quiet contemplation when we can allow ourselves to become more aware of the all-embracing love which is at the heart of living. We are loved by the God who is so much greater than we can fully understand and whose plans are worked out in eternity rather than just in our personal timespan.

Our prayer, at home or in church, can be simply accepting that God is with us and valuing his love. So often prayer seems to be offered as a long list of wants and needs, and seemingly reminding God of problems and issues which he surely knows of already.

It is, of course, right to bring concerns to our heavenly Father, but as in human

conversation we need to listen at least as much as we talk. And we may find, if we just "allow the Lord to be there" in the quietness of our reflective moments, that we can feel a new answer to our concerns from the assurance of the eternal One in our personal place and time.

I believe in silence as a valuable way of feeling God's presence. The classic hymn "Dear Lord and Father of mankind" speaks of this – especially of the sea 'where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity'..... I also feel that we can know God's presence amid the sounds of life, from thunder rolls and waterfalls to vibrant music and thrilling rhythms. God can be known in quietness and gentleness but also in power and glory.

Knowing God gives life a clear purpose, which is simply that of serving his ways of love.

That is not as easy as it may sound, which is why we need to belong to a group of like-minded people and continue to seek a holy way of living. And it is a purpose which we can share with others by the way we live and use our time.

So we seek to live in the light of eternity, aware that the time will come when all the clocks stop and time will be no more. But there will be that eternal love, brought into this world by Jesus who entered our human condition to show us true, sacrificial love and to offer us the assurance of salvation in and beyond our time in this world.

Love,
Jo