

Thought for the Day 26/03/2020

“Though the fig-tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the sheepfold and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour.” Habakkuk 3:17-18

I don't know about you, but it feels to me that we have undergone a series of 'bereavements' as the (necessary) rules and regulations surrounding Covid-19 have taken hold of all our lives...first the over 70s were advised to self-isolate, then we had Communion in one kind at church and no sharing of the Peace, then social distancing became commonplace, and then the unprecedented Government restrictions that came into force on Monday night after the statement by the PM.

The prophet Habakkuk in the Old Testament describes a similar steady series of things going wrong for God's people thousands of years ago.

First, the fig tree didn't blossom.

Next, they lost the grapes.

Even more critical was the loss of grain.

The final blow was the loss of the livestock.

Given a catastrophe of this magnitude, things looked very bleak indeed.

But what does the prophet Habakkuk say? **YET**. “Yet I will rejoice...”

No matter how bad it got, Habakkuk was determined to keep his heart from sinking into despair. **How?** By focusing on the bigness of God rather than the bigness of the problem. Habakkuk responded to the escalating crisis **by rejoicing in God**. Even in the most horrible bad-to-worse situation, he knew that the God of his salvation would be faithful to see him through.

God will see us through this really difficult time too...when you feel like it's all too much, can I encourage you to say (go out in the garden and say it out loud if you like!) **“yet I will rejoice in the Lord...I will be joyful in God my Saviour!”**

Remember you can send your prayer request to:

Prayer@baystonhillchurch.org

Or ring: (01743) 583215

And you can read these **Thought for the Day** articles on our website too at www.baystonhillchurch.org

Peace be with you!

Rev Peter Hubbard (Vicar)