

Thought for the day – Friday 25th February 2022

by Revd Kit Gunasekera

Ukraine

Like many others, I was shocked when Russia actually invaded Ukraine. Some of us may not have been. In the build up to this over the last few weeks, it felt so hard to know what was actually going in the political world. Even those in the know often didn't seem to agree, so what chance the rest of us?

Archbishops Welby and Cottrell described the invasion as an act of evil. Even in this age, where speaking the truth is simply one of many options it seems for our leaders, where fake news is an accepted mode of communicating, it can feel difficult to come to terms with the outright lies that President Putin has put out over the last few weeks.

It is also hard to know how to respond.

I am reminded of Jesus saying that He is the truth, the way and the life. Perhaps that is a good place to start.

As we follow Him more closely, the Holy Spirit will lead us and guide us, along the path of truth. Sometimes the way will be clear and sometimes not.

We are called to pray, for all those in positions of power and influence, for wisdom, for peace and for justice. May we pray for Ukraine and specially for all those affected by this assault, including the church there. May we also pray for the Church in Russia, for the gift of courage to speak truth to power. I realise that is easy for me to say from the comfort and safety in Clapham, but it is something we can **pray for** none the less.

We can also make representations to our local MP to tell them how strongly we might feel, and that we must as a nation be part of rendering assistance to those fleeing Ukraine at this time.

We can seek out people and communities who have links with Ukraine in this country and offer support.

And let us not forget, other parts of the world, where war and state induced violence, is a way of life, causing many to flee, and live in fear, but do not make the news.

May we, in all of this, hold on to hope and not give way to fear. Hope not in mere human beings, but in Jesus Christ. For our sakes and for those we pray for and seek to help



