

## Thought for the day – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

By Revd John Marshall

We have been watching a lot of news, sometimes we ignore it, sometimes we watch it late at night and find more news of places far away.

Stephen Cherry watches or hears the news as well

### On Hearing the News

I am struggling.  
I am struggling to hold  
what I have heard and seen.

Daily I am assailed by news:  
daily I struggle to absorb it, to drink  
the cup of other people's suffering.

Teach me how to hear the news;  
show me how to respond.

For a while my heart grows hot, my mind  
moves on. I am left with feelings  
I cannot name.

I am not covered with anger or  
roused to rage; my tears are not shed.  
I fail sympathy.

Yet there is a shimmering shame,  
a vague guilt; not a  
sword, but a blunt saw  
hacking at my soul.

Let me lament the sorrow I see!  
Let me rage at routine injustice

Let my inner eye run with tears:  
when I see the hungry,  
when I hear of violent death,  
when peace talks fail.

Let my inner eye run with tears:  
when I hear of natural disaster,  
when I see a storm or flood,  
and the endangered become extinct.

Let my inner eye run with tears:  
when I see corruption,  
when I hear of deceit,  
when justice cannot be done.

But let my soul sing:  
when I hear of courage and creativity;  
when I see adversity overcome;  
when the story is of sacrifice and service.

Let me attend to the depth of the news.

Let me resonate with the reality it both reveals  
and hides.

Stephen Cherry Barefoot Prayers SPCK

How do we respond to the news?  
Prayer is always available.