

Thought for the day – Tuesday 20th September 2022

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

All shall be well

Dear Friends,

It is good to be back, but what an extraordinary two weeks it has been!!

In that time, we have had a new Prime Minister, we have had to take the painful decision to close our church temporarily while we address some urgent building issues and of course we have marked, remembered, paid our respects to and prayed over the death of our late Queen and the new King, with wide ranging thoughts and emotions. Change, whether permanent or temporary can be unsettling and disturbing.

I was struck by several things Archbishop Welby said during his sermon at her majesty's funeral yesterday. He spoke again of her service.

"People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer. But in all cases those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten. The grief of this day – felt not only by the late Queen's family but all round the nation, Commonwealth and the world – arises from her abundant life and loving service, now gone from us."

He went on to quote John 14:1-6 when he said "Jesus – who in our reading does not tell his disciples how to follow, but who to follow – said: "I am the way, the truth and the life".

I remember visiting a person the night before he died. When I saw him, I spoke to him the words of Jesus from John 14, and assured him that Jesus was walking with him now and that he was not alone. Gathering every bit of strength he could muster he gave me a strong nod of affirmation. That was the last communication I had with him, until he smiled when I left to go home that night.

WHAT IS TRUE IN DEATH IS ALSO TRUE IN LIFE.

Sometimes, when I feel anxious and scared about the future, and indeed the present, I remember that nod. And I remember mother Julian's words "All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well"

God bless,

Kit.