

## Thought for the day – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Revd Kit Gunasekera**

It is a year ago that we staged our hope exhibition, and thank you to Rosemarie for sending me the photo below. It was an amazing expression of hope, by our local community, put on at a time when we were heading for the first lockdown. You can see the photos [here](#).

Let's hold on to hope, for each other and for our world. In a note of hope, we are opening up our church building again, for Prayer, to Light a Candle, and to support the foodbank, on a Sunday from 4-5pm and Tuesday from 12-1pm, starting this Sunday, the 14th March, which is Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day.

I have been struck by the terrible events concerning Sarah Everard, and hearing many women expressing their fear and anger, at a toxic culture that is being built up that creates fear and danger, and how many of them have felt unsafe to walk our streets for a long time. This is unacceptable and it needs to change. Let us pray and do all we can to make that so. Men specially have a role to play in this, to change this toxic culture in which women are often portrayed and viewed as objects rather than human beings. I was reminded of Paul instructing Timothy to treat "older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity". - 1 Timothy 5:2

And let us pray for Sarah and her family and loved ones, as well as for the police as they try to uncover the truth of what happened.

As we face this and other terrible and painful realities, may we do so holding on to hope.

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." - Romans 15:13.

