

John 8 : 12 - Are we being a light in the darkness?

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (NIV)

I recently read a book entitled 'In every God-created thing' written by a Methodist Minister Annie Heathcoat, where I found the following quote: 'Never doubt in the darkness, that which you believe in the light.' Believed by some to have been said by St Aidan but never proved.

As we have been and are still travelling through this pandemic, how often have we felt that we are in a dark tunnel or walking down a dark country lane beset by dense forests on either side? No light in view. No hope of it coming to an end. I am writing this as the snow falls yet again with no signs of it stopping. There is certainly no hope of my reaching the doctors without looking like a drowned rat!

Have you noticed how the smallest of words can have the biggest meanings? Words like love and hope offer us so much as we journey through those dark places. In the past few weeks we have seen signs of love and hope. The love shown by so many for Captain Sir Tom Moore and the hope offered to us by scientists as more vaccines are developed and more people are been vaccinated. As Christians called to be the 'light of the world' we are to show that light by serving God and our neighbours by offering the love and hope that we have been given. Christ is the light at the end of the tunnel and it is for everyone and that brings hope everlasting.

In the words of Tom Wright: 'The idea of calling someone to be the means of bringing light to the world is rooted in ancient Judaism.' Isaiah 42 : 6 'I, the Lord have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand, I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles.'

Those words are true for us today. Are we being a light in the darkness? Are we showing the light of love and hope in the darkness helping to lead others towards the light at the end of the tunnel – the light of Christ our Saviour?

Amen