Vicars Musings ..

It has been a while since my last missive, sadly in a way it is reflection on how I have had less time to sit and ponder……something that will be remedied over the coming weeks.

I have be thinking allot about hope recently especially as I have had so many messages –‘hope you have a good break’ or ‘hope you get time to relax’ Hope is also a theme I have discussed with Julian and Richard to really focus on in Advent more about that in October…..

 Hope is a word that I am sure many of us have often use lightly. “I hope the weather will be good tomorrow” “I hope Arsenal will do better next season!” “I hope I’ll get some more bowls in before the end of season” ‘hope to see you soon’ …But, as we know, hope is so much more, so much deeper, and so much more important. Hope is one of those gifts from God that comes to us at the most difficult of times

Hope may seem difficult for us to feel at the moment. We dwell and ponder instead.  Is this virus under control?  Are people taking notice of social distancing?  Will my children’s exam results good enough for Uni?  Will we ever get away on holiday?  Have I got a job after furloughing? Will I see my grandchildren more regularly?  There are so many changes to our lives, to our world; there are so many questions doing circles through our minds.

I am moved by the fearful hope I see in the faces of refugees and those who are victimised and ostracized by society hope that their lives will change and there will be no more pain.

I am also moved by the joyous expectation of hope I see in the faces of children that my friends have shared as they go back to school.

I hope we’ve all at some time recognised God’s presence and strength, and even peace with us, in a way that at the time of our worries couldn’t expect.

I believe that just as God has been in the past, God is with us now, in this time, offering us those same gifts of strength, peace and above all hope.

It is faith hope and love of God that have got me through the pandemic thus far. Faith that both congregations will find new ways of being church together and apart, Hope in the potential there is in both congregations to grow in faith and number and love in the care that has been shown to each other and to me over the past months. So as I prepare to Marry Alex and Victoria later today, and then turn my Kia Picanto in to the Tardis and fit the ever growing mountain of stuff I neeeeed to take to Brittainy I know I am blessed to be in Purley.