

Thought for the day – 5th August – from Peter Hemming

[1 SAMUEL 16](#) / [LUKE 23.44-56a](#)

Beginnings and endings.

Here, in today's readings, we have the account of the anointing of David, marking the start of his 'rise from insignificance to King', and the death of Jesus, the King and 'Son of David'.

It seems an odd pairing. Yet, we can be confident of God with us in all our doings – beginnings and endings.

We can be certain that God has chosen us for a purpose, as he chose David, from insignificance to become – in time – the King of Israel. His 'Jewish' reputation lasted for a thousand years or more, and the Psalms of David, (which may not all have been his, but usefully express a wide range of emotions), have served the church well for another two millennia.

Jesus stretched out his arms for us on the cross to demonstrate the full extent of God's love for us. Even the centurion, a hardened Roman warrior noticed the innocence of the victim here. Not all the Jews hated Jesus – we need to be clear about this – and it was Joseph of Arimathea who offered, freely, his own tomb for the burial.

St Paul, in his letter to the [Romans](#), reminded his readers that God works for good through every circumstance – good and bad things are bound together in the eternal purposes of God. It is sometimes only with 20:20 hindsight that we can see all that has happened as being part of God's great plan. (And '20:20 hindsight is remarkably powerful vision,' as I was told many years ago!)

I was also reminded of this, from the Prayer Book, in the hope that it resonates with some of you! "Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favour, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

And here's a song that might encourage you: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPKrLLMnrJ4>