

Thought for the Day 6 July 2020 - Janet Lindley (All Hallows)

Take this moment

How are you doing right now? What are you finding the biggest challenge today? What brings you most comfort?

For each of us these restricted times will be a different experience depending on our personality and our circumstances. For me, not being able to chat informally with my colleagues is something I'm missing a lot! And other people too like family, friends and the lovely community at All Hallows'.

On the up-side there has been time to be in contact with neighbours and to be more rooted in the local community on our street. This time has given these connections the chance to blossom a little.

We have been slowly finding our way towards new rhythms of living. Baking sourdough bread, working in the garden, making compost, all physical activities which help me focus away from a device or screen and away from my trained skill-set. We are having a go.

Through this time of not being able or being constrained, when we turn to experts for advice on what we can do, maybe it is good to be back in the place of learning, of being a novice. What experimentation gives me is the reminder that there is so much to learn, that the creator God, who breathes life into the world, brought such a fascinating and intricate design into being. And by listening, watching and attending, I can learn how to nurture and work with that beautiful design.

In all of the mess, the God who makes all things new, will slowly, gently, mistake by mistake, lead us into understanding if we make a little room. Maybe then we will see a little more how we can walk alongside. Not by being an expert, but by tripping and stumbling, learning and looking for guidance, holding the hand of the one that leads us. Following in that way.

Pause. Give God space to be alongside you. In silence. Or allow this song to flow over you.

<https://youtu.be/2bnCxCh5EGA>

"God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!...Not by pushing us around but by working within us, God's Spirit deeply and gently within us." Ephesians 3:20-21 (abridged from The Message)