

Reflection Saturday 4th April.

Today as I sit here I reflect on just how much has changed over the last few weeks.

Three weeks ago today Chris and I were with friends in the Cotswolds for the weekend. Whilst we would normally have stayed over until the Monday we came back on the Sunday because my diary was so full. And then, suddenly, everything in my diary cancelled. I had very mixed feelings over this. Part of me was relieved because it gave me time to collect my thoughts, part of me was sad because I look forward to meeting up with people, and part of me was worried because of the implications.

Three weeks on and things are still changing although we have settled into a routine. The first thing that started up for us again was our photo club, meeting up 'on-line'. That has been a lifeline, being able to meet up and chat, a semblance of normality. My reader training also carried on, again on-line, but we heard yesterday that the Diocese has furloughed staff and so that has now stopped for the foreseeable future. Once my assignment on the Old Testament is finished this week, I have no idea when we will start again. But I have plenty of reading to catch up on.

The biggest struggle I have had is not being able to see family, like so many of us. We are very lucky that Sarah lives with us, but both our boys, Tim & Peter and our granddaughter Alex live in Lincolnshire. I found Mothering Sunday really hard. Not because I didn't see them but because I don't know when I will be able to see them again. I just want to give them all a big hug and keep them safe. My sister is in Wimbledon and is the head of a special needs school. She is still going in to work everyday. Today is her birthday, and we would normally meet up. Instead we are going to try a family on-line meeting later today.

I'm sure I'm not alone in struggling to come to terms with what is happening. This morning I was reading Psalm 23 and I took great comfort in this, particularly verse. 'Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; and your rod and your staff, they comfort me.' I have found great comfort in my relationship with the Lord during this difficult time and I hope you have to. Together we must keep up our prayers for the world in this time of crisis. We will get through this together.

If any of you are struggling and would like a chat, I'm here on the other end of the phone. We are all in this together and we all have 'wobbly' moments.

God Bless you all,

Kathy