

## Thought for the Month of May 2021 by Rev'd Alan Griggs, lead Rural Chaplain

Did you hear that a football super league was a bad idea?!!! Joking apart, the attempt for a super league clearly struck at the very foundations and heart of football. As many have said, football is not about the money and “without the fans the game is nothing”. There are clearly some foundational pillars in football that should not be meddled with.

I wonder what the foundational pillars are in farming for you? As many of you will know better than I, farming is entering another period of significant change with the phasing out of the Basic Payments Scheme over the next seven years. Naturally there are many questions about how the changes will affect your farming business and income, your family, and your motivation.

The biblical book of Isaiah talks about a time of deep change and uncertainty in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century BCE, when the people of Israel are overcome by the Kingdoms of Assyria and then Babylon. Yet, God speaks through the prophet Isaiah saying: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; the one who believes will never be shaken” (Isaiah 28:16). Around 800 years later, the apostle Paul believed the cornerstone of which Isaiah spoke of is Jesus Christ, saying: “For no one can lay a foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Football or farming, I wonder what foundations we can lay in life that will help us creatively navigate change? Of course, this is a challenge when we do not know what the future holds, but with the right foundations...?



A Farmers day in the future!