



Thought for the Month of July 2021 by Louise Latham, DRC's Administrator

Recently I lost the vision in my right eye quite suddenly which meant that I could only see shapes or bright colours. It felt very strange and disorientating. Daily trips to the hospital reinforced my huge appreciation for the NHS and my consultant's care and expertise. We are so privileged to have free access to the treatment we need.

Our lives consist of challenges and testing times. Jesus said: *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* (John 16.33). My current challenge is relatively small and hopefully temporary, but some of you are facing extremely difficult situations that many of us cannot imagine. There may be no obvious answers to our questions as to why something has happened or is ongoing, we don't understand the reasons behind it and we can't fathom things out. I came across this helpful comment recently: 'God is not for us to understand. He is for us to know and be known by him'.

When I close my 'good' eye, I can't see the faces of my children around me but I know they are there because I can hear them. In some ways, it's a similar situation with the Lord and me – I cannot see him physically standing before me but I may sense his presence and I see His love in the beauty around me: whether it's an ancient oak tree, a sunset, a bee, or my children laughing together when they are not falling out with each other! We are all able to see God's creativity around us – that's one way we can know of Him.

Near our house are fields covered in beautiful pale blue linseed (flax) flowers with poppies scattered amongst them – it is truly stunning, even through one eye! Before any of these seedlings appeared however, only the farmer who had chosen the seeds and those close to him or her, knew what was going to grow in those fields; for the rest of us it was a mystery. Only when the seedlings produced enough form to be recognised as flax did it become clear, but only then. Prior to this, we were unaware of what was taking place within the soil and what was going to emerge.

Like the seeds which were chosen and sown by the farmer who knew what the crop would become, I do believe that God, who knows the end from the beginning, knows what is to come. Nothing is a mystery to Him. He knows the challenges we are facing now and the testing times we will have ahead. He is someone who loves each one of us so much and doesn't want us to struggle alone. All we have to do is ask Him and trust Him – He who knows all things.



Source: Depositphotos

