

From darkness to light...

It's been the British winter! Despite the real joy of celebrating Christ's birth and welcoming back family times together, the weather was pretty grim over Christmas and it was soon getting dark again after we had had our lunch! Fortunately, January has been brighter, but colder, and we are seeing the welcome lengthening of daylight hours. The resilient snowdrop emerges again, fighting through dark, cold, wet and sometimes hard soil, putting great encouragement into our hearts.



I am sure we all are agreed that no matter how many springs we see in our lives, each one is just as special and we feel uplifted and humbled again and again. We move forward in the light.

Can you imagine if the message of Rachel Carson's prophetic book, 'Silent Spring', published in 1962, had ever come to fruition? Prophetic as (although aimed mainly at the use of pesticides) it was considered to be the book that started the grass roots environmental movement which is very much in vogue today.

The Covid pandemic has created its own 'darkness' in many people's lives. Lost loved ones, postponed operations leaving painful hips and knees, the uncertainties due to an over stretched NHS, the not yet fully quantified legacy of long Covid – the list goes on. In the midst of it there is darkness and depression in society. However, remembering Jesus came as a light to the world, we can turn to scripture where there are many passages about darkness and how light will surely follow as morning follows night.

'I have come into the world as light so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness'
John 12 v46

'Even in darkness light dawns for the upright' Psalm 112 v4

Also, a proverb from the Lingala language in The Congo puts forward the notion that *'No matter how long the night is, the morning will always come'*.

If you know anyone who is in 'darkness' at the moment and needs help with a financial, medical or emotional situation, here are two Derbyshire rural charities that you can contact, so please do make a call:

Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy: Rev Alan Griggs (Lead chaplain) 07710 088972
The Farming Life Centre: Chris Morris (Chair) 07971 118820

