

August... school holidays... sunshine... rain... KOA shop... and Olympics! In the church we gear up to Holiday clubs, and Sunday morning thoughts turn to a number of interesting women. They range from a prostitute to a widow, and women abused in different ways. All food for thought in society today when all too often the news headlines seem to rotate through stories of human pain, injustice and tragedy.

These women all feature in Jesus's family tree (Matthew 1). Although their stories are not good, each is commended for her faith, generosity and trust in very difficult situations. (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba !)

For us, staying positive, optimistic and trusting God in all of the different situations that face us day by day or month by month can be an enormous challenge, sometimes stretching our faith considerably.

Yesterday I was clearing out a drawer and there at the bottom was a little card with a comment attributed to Mother Teresa of Calcutta:

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centred:

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives:

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies:

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you:

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone may destroy overnight:

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous:

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow:

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough:

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is all between you and God:

It was never between you and them anyway.

The Bible says:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Let us keep going, thankfully, trusting God whose love never ends or fails us...

"All will be well and all will be well and every kind of thing shall be well." (Julian of Norwich)

As most of you will be aware, I am planning to retire in mid-October and this will leave a vacancy

for a Vicar in our Churches. The appointment process can take a while but the Church Wardens and PCCs will move it along as quickly as possible.

Until a new Vicar arrives, Glynis, Alison, Tony and a number of others will make sure that everything is covered. At the beginning of October we will put a list of whom to contact about what on the website and in the Church porches. The main contact number will be 01235 554739. Any calls to that number will be passed on to the best person to deal with it! More next month.