

For some of us the answer to the question, “What is your favourite place?” is an easy one. It might be home, a holiday destination or simply a place that holds special memories. For others, like me, the answer might be different depending on the day! I have been fortunate enough to visit some interesting places over the years. I love where I live now, here in Kennington. I also love the West Coast of Scotland, where I grew up; yet my favourite part of Scotland seems to change every time I visit!

But what is it that makes a place special to us? It could, of course, be all sorts of things: people, the community, memories, the beauty of the place. But I wonder perhaps, if common to all these places, is a sense of peace and of belonging?

In the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, The Lord’s Prayer, there is a line near the beginning which says, “Thy kingdom come, here on Earth as it is in Heaven.” It’s a line, like the prayer, that for many of us, is so familiar that it trips off the tongue without much thought. But whether we are familiar with it or not we might reasonably ask what it means.

For Christians, God’s kingdom is the whole of creation, Heaven and Earth, as God meant it to be: a place of peace, where there is no more suffering, no more death, no more pain; a place of joy and of love where all are welcome. At Easter we celebrate Jesus’s resurrection, which marked the start of the coming of this new kingdom; and although we know all too well that the world is still a broken place with lots of problems, we can and do see glimpses of God’s kingdom in the world around us all the time—unexpected kindness, sacrificial love, caring for neighbours both near and far. Part of being a follower of Jesus is joining in with the work of making the world more like this, and we trust that God is with us however we are feeling or wherever we are.

This year, the Archbishop of Canterbury has invited churches across England to take part in a global initiative called Thy Kingdom Come from the 25<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June, to pray for ourselves, for each other and for our communities. On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June there will be a special prayer trail between our churches, and there are different prayer events on throughout the week. See overleaf and our website for more information. All are welcome!

— Alison Mathew