

Dear Friends,

One of the joys that we weren't expecting when we moved to Headcorn & the Suttons was the lovely bright and airy vicarage with its delightful South facing Garden. Now, to set the record straight I have to point out that neither Graham nor I are particularly avid gardeners. However, we do enjoy sitting outside with a coffee or something and simply enjoying the sunshine and the birdsong, so now that spring appears to have sprung we have already taken the opportunity to do exactly that.

It was while we were sitting outside and talking the other day that we became aware of the sound of an aeroplane engine – only it didn't sound quite the same as we are becoming used to – this definitely wasn't the sound of a plane taking off or landing at the nearby airfield. Instead the engine kept spluttering and dying before bursting back into life again. To start off we looked around – concerned that the plane was having mechanical difficulties – but then we saw it – far from being in trouble, the pilot was doing all sorts of aerobatics. Loop the loop, climbing vertically before turning and just dropping for what seemed an age – you name it he (I assume it was a he) did it – it was quite a spectacle. Then, almost as soon as he had flown off into the distance we saw another slightly larger plane flying overhead before jettisoning its cargo of 6 parachutists. Once again, we watched transfixed as the brightly coloured canopies seemed to dance in the air, swooping and circling as they came into land – we could almost feel the exhilaration and enjoyment of the men and women who were guiding them around the sky.

Now I have an admission to make here, I am a bit of a woos – although I can appreciate the skill of the pilot and parachutist – and may even feel a little bit envious of the feelings of elation they undoubtedly feel, there is no way that you would ever get me in a plane that was doing aerobatics or jumping out of one with a parachute – no matter how proficient the person looking after me. I just wouldn't be able to trust myself, the other person or, more importantly my equipment in what is, after all, a life or death situation.

Well, this all got me thinking (you'll find I do quite a lot of that). As we journey through life, who or what do we find it easiest to trust – if indeed we can trust at all? Hopefully our family and friends for a start – but even then, because we know them so well, we are also very much aware that even they will have their limitations. So who else is there?

Well I suppose it depends on what you want – however, even in life's darkest moments I really do believe that there is one person we can all turn to in the certainty that he will be there for us and who will support us and save us – you won't be surprised to know that I am talking about Jesus Christ. No matter how tough things might be, we know that Christ has experienced not just the same, but more – and got through it – because surely that is what the Easter experience is about. But more than that, as we travel through life I believe that he is walking alongside us, just waiting for us to hold out our hands so that he can grasp them and lead us on an incredible journey. A journey that will be full and exhilarating – all we need to do is trust him.

If you want to know more please feel free to contact me or any one of the other ministers in our local churches – we would be more than happy to talk to you about it.

With Blessings for a full and fulfilling May.


Graham Hone