

The Rectory
14th July 2020

Dear Family,

I have just written a piece for the Phonebox that I would like to share with you all. It means that you all get things hot from the press and before the rest of the Phonebox circulation:

A new start

Many of us are wondering about the future and what it will look like and what it will bring for us. Of course there is so much that we do not know, so much has changed and so much will change; and change can be so very messy. A clergyman recently told me that he and his Church were making sure that they do not rush into the next season whatever that is for them. They have adopted the slogan 'Selah' which is Hebrew for pause. The pneumonic that they are using is: 'Stop Everything Listen And Hear'

They are pausing, praying and planning using 'Selah' because they want to come up with God's ideas, God's solutions and God's plans for the new season that they will be entering after 'lockdown' is over. For some of us, our lives will go back to things pretty much as they were before the pandemic, while others will start new ventures in a totally new way. Here are some thought provoking quotes that relate to starting new things in life:

"New beginnings are often disguised as painful endings." -- Lao Tzu (Taoism)

For many we have been or are in a place of pain; there are new things ahead for us.

"It is never too late to be what you might have been." -- George Eliot

This may be a time for us to step out of any regrets that we have from the past and walk into being more of the person that we have always longed to be.

"If you can't fly, then run, if you can't run, then walk, if you can't walk, then crawl, but by all means keep moving." -- Martin Luther King Jr.

If we have good dreams (and Martin Luther King Jr certainly did) then they are worth pursuing and it is good to not be side-tracked, good not to give in to disillusionment and good to keep working at them.

With the Christian faith there is much to be said of new starts. The Bible tells us that if anyone becomes a Christian, "... they are a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." We are also told that whenever we make mistakes and ask for forgiveness God will completely forgive us: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is (His) faithfulness".

Stay safe and God bless!

Andrew+

My thanks to Malcolm for this prayer that is so relevant to where we are on our faith journey at this time:

Loving God, we pray for your church as we start to navigate how we can worship together, both online and offline. As we start to meet together again physically, we give thanks for all who are giving their time in helping to make decisions, cleaning the church, deciding and sharing guidelines and enabling people to come and pray once more inside the buildings that have held our memories safe. We pray for inclusive hearts and minds which will help us make sure that all are welcome and able to worship together still, and for the generosity to sow seeds of love, mercy, compassion, justice, hope and joy.

Amen