



These words from the passage above particularly struck me: '*So Jesus spoke words of death and life, of loss and gain, of serving and honouring.*'

As we mark a year since we first went into lockdown in March last year, how much do those words ring true of things that we have all lived through this past year?

We have heard much of those who have sadly lost their lives to Coronavirus, alongside stories of hope and new life from those who have recovered. We have clapped the carers who have unrelentingly served and honoured those in their care, day and night, to help them. We have all lost some things, had events cancelled and had to give up others, but have we gained in some way too? Have we learned things that have helped us to get through this very strange time that will help us in years to come maybe?

Elsewhere in the passage, we read that 'God will honour everyone who serves me.' As you may have seen recently in the news, it was mentioned that we can all live a life of service in our different ways. Maybe we can think this week of how we can serve others in and despite our present circumstances. You may have seen the story of Billy Monger, a double amputee, raising money for Comic Relief and pushing himself to achieve physically against the odds as he knew he would be helping others by doing so.

Towards the end of the passage above, we read that Jesus will draw all people to himself, a wonderful embracing thought that we can all connect with him. I am sure that we have all found different ways to maintain our connection with God during this past year, be that through walks, watching nature, listening to music, reading, listening to the church services, maybe even through these notes!

This Sunday evening there will be a recorded choral evensong (one of the great traditions of the Church of England) available on the St Helen's website from 5.30pm. I have always found the traditional language and music to be rather comforting and a very unique way of tapping into things spiritual. Why not give it a try and see what you think?

http://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html