

Faith Comment published in the Petersfield Post

19 May 2010: Linda Cawsey, Petersfield Methodist Church

Systems Meltdown

So we're in for a hung parliament with a likely re-election and changes to the electoral system. This isn't the only system to have let us down recently. It started with a banking system which had insufficient safeguards to cry halt when we were living beyond our means. Then there are countries – Greece and Ireland to name but two – where electorates are feeling the pain of systems which allowed massive national debt to be incurred and lenders have now said 'enough'.

On a different tack, who would have thought that a volcano in Iceland could impact on our mode of travel taken so much for granted. A failed system in the Gulf of Mexico will lead to greater account of risk factors when considering drilling in hitherto unfathomable depths. We have become so reliant and comfortable with our systems – religious, political, technical, medical, educational and trade. We presume they're infallible and ignore the flaws, unfairness and possible exploitation of others until they fail.

In the Old Testament Haggai prophesied 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: In just a little while I will again shake the heavens and the earth. I will shake the oceans and the dry land. I will shake all the nations...' We may be shaken but we do have an unfailing God in whom we can put our trust and Jesus assures us, "Not a sparrow will fall to the ground without your Father knowing it". And that's all the same God – as concerned with our own small needs as He is those of the world.