

Faith Comment Petersfield Post 18 July 2024

Jeannine Davies, 07725 586731

St Mary Magdalen Church, Sheet

Acceptance with Grace – and Growing Stronger

Life's tricky isn't it? We seem to be bobbing along fairly well when suddenly, WHAM. An unwelcome event hits us and knocks us flat. For me it was the recent blow of my Daughter having a kidney removed urgently, followed by treatment which is still ongoing. For many of you, life's hit you even harder. The sense of bewilderment sometimes leaves us in an aimless circle of grief and the confusion of why? Why when we/they've done nothing wrong? Why when we were just living quietly, working hard...why?... and the frustrating thing is that generally there's no answer. Certainly, it feels like even our God who loves us doesn't respond....Does our God *really* love us if He allows "This" to happen? Happily, the answer is a resounding YES.

YES, God does love us. He sees our pain, understands our confusion, catches our tears and holds us close – God's been there! Furthermore, God puts people in our paths to help us, to carry us, to encourage us. The nurse who took my Daughter's first blood tests had worked in Singapore for 8 years and reported very positive results of the treatment and two ladies from her Church also reported positive results. These ladies were once in the place we currently find ourselves – but now they re-assure and comfort us.

I do understand our, perhaps, angry reluctance to accept our troubles gracefully; but how can we possibly help the next person along their difficult path if we haven't already trodden our own paths? So here's to getting through our testing times where we shall grow stronger and become the caring, experienced Helper for the people we're going to meet and hold and re-assure. We'll be furthering God's work because we understand. We're part of God's eternal plan – WOW.