Faith Comment published in the Petersfield Post

29 January 2014: Linda Cawsey, Petersfield Methodist Church

Waiting for... ?

Have you ever seen a production of Waiting for Godot, the famous play by Samuel Beckett? It is about two tramps, Vladimir and Estragon, who spend the entire play anticipating the arrival of a person named Godot. They talk, they argue, they meet other characters, but in the end Godot never shows up. Although Beckett refused to explain the play, the message seems clear: life is meaningless if we spend it waiting for something that never happens.

Jesus told a parable about three servants whose master gave them each a sum of money and told them to build on what he had given them. The first two went to work and doubled their master's investment but the third dug a hole and carefully buried the money. When the master returned the first two showed him how they had cared for and improved their master's investment. The third servant explained to his master that he hadn't wanted to disappoint him and so he had hid the money and there it was safe and sound. The master was extremely angry because the servant hadn't made the most of what he had been given.

Every one of us is valued in the sight of God and we have been given the talents, identity and circumstances unique to us individually. The bible tells us that God calls us by name. He wants us to live out our lives with purpose so that we won't look back with remorse and say, "If only ....." My mother spent the last 5 years of her life in a nursing home attached to an oxygen machine. She couldn't speak for very long but her room became a haven of love, prayer and peace for any who looked in. Needless to say, she was never short of visitors.

So don't spend your life wishing for what you don't have but use what you have been given and where you find yourself. Find out where you stand in God's scheme of things - you're in there somewhere.