

The Queen's Legacy

The funeral is over, the servicemen are back at their barracks, streets have been tidied, the traffic in London is flowing again, and the King is out of mourning. Everything is back to normal.

COVID hit our nation. We all went into lockdown. Everyone wore masks and kept 2 metres apart. We don't do this any longer. We are back to normal.

But what is normal? Our view of what is normal depends on what we are comparing our present situation with. It depends on our viewpoint. What is normal to one person is not normal to another and what is normal now is not what was normal some time ago. Whether it is because of COVID or the death of the Queen or some other event, major or minor, things change. People change. And we have to accommodate these changes at every stage in our life.

So is there anything which does not change? The expected answer could well be the Christian Faith, but in real terms, Christian faith is not unchanging. The notion of an Earth that is flat with God in his heaven above the stars and the devil in a fiery furnace below ground is not now the concept of the spiritual world that most of us hold. Our faith, just like our understanding of the world around us, has to accommodate changes. There is no normality that we can take totally for granted.

Is anything constant? Values of love, truth, commitment: these do not change. Nor does the working of the Holy Spirit that underlies our faith. Strikingly, these are among the values most recognised in our late Queen. These values should matter to us too. Our responsibility is to bring them into our everyday life, and so face an uncertain world with values that are unchanging.

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