Faith Comment – 29 October 2026



Finding Light in the Darkness.

When I moved to the village where I now live, I invested in a new torch, and I am ridiculously proud of it! It is wonderfully bright, illuminating the pavement when I walk home after a late meeting at school or church, or a film night at the Village Hall. It helps me avoid tripping over kerbs and alerts passing cars to my presence.

Living somewhere with so little artificial light can be challenging, but it is also something to treasure. We are fortunate to enjoy the dark skies of the South Downs, where the stars can shine in all their splendour.

This Saturday, young people (and others!) may be searching for doors with lanterns outside, signalling that treats might be on offer. Even on a night associated with darkness and things that go bump in the night, a light can offer the promise of something good.

With the clocks having gone back, we are getting used to darker evenings. My torch is certainly coming into its own – if only to check whether the puppy has had a wee before I bring her in from the garden!

Darkness can be frightening. When we are already anxious, dark corners can seem to conceal all sorts of dangers. Yet what if darkness is not entirely bad?

One evening, I left my torch at home. Instead of a bright beam lighting my way, my eyes gradually adjusted to the gloom. The moon helped, and I began to see the stars in their full glory. I think I may even have glimpsed the owl serenading us from the big tree.

It was a reminder that sometimes, when we stop trying to illuminate everything, we discover things we might otherwise miss.

Psalm 139 is one of my favourites. King David writes of God's extraordinary knowledge of each one of us, and the impossibility of going anywhere beyond God's presence. He says to God: “even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.” No wonder Jesus is called The Light of the World.

God does not need a torch to find us. God's loving knowledge reaches into the deepest corners of our hearts and minds, even those places we scarcely understand ourselves. Nothing about us is hidden from God's compassionate gaze.

As the evenings grow darker, perhaps we might allow ourselves to notice both the beauty of the night sky and the reassurance of God's presence. We may not always see the way ahead clearly, but we do not walk it alone.

And sometimes, of course, it is perfectly sensible to take a torch – especially when there is a puppy involved!

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