

Village News article November 2021

I wonder how you feel about being in the dark?

When I was a girl I was scared of the dark. Being in dark places was frightening because my overripe imagination would conjure up images of what might be lurking in the shadows, waiting to pounce out. There was always a sense of relief when I was able to reach a place of safety, a place of light, where I felt protected. Over the years I have managed to control my imagination but I have also gained confidence from knowing that in those times of darkness I never walk alone because Jesus walks right beside me – my comforter, my protector and my friend.

As we move into November and the dark winter months there seems to be much darkness all around us, and I recognise that darkness takes many different forms. There's the darkness which comes when daylight decreases, when we've passed the autumnal equinox and the clocks have been put back, the nights become longer and the days much shorter. There's a darkness we refer to when we speak of the news of all that is going on in the world, stories of problems and disasters which may seem like giant bogeymen waiting to ambush and overwhelm us, and can make the whole world seem a pretty dark place right now.

Then there's that unsettling sense of suspecting you are being kept in the dark, of not knowing what is happening, perhaps feeling alienated or fearing an underhand subterfuge is taking place, and there's a darkness that comes with ill health, that can cloud our minds and swamp our spirits and steal away our joy.

Yet, in all of this darkness, as I discovered all those years ago, there is always hope, there is always a new dawn and there is always someone who walks with you - a comforter, protector and friend. Jesus is the light for the world, he is the bringer of a light that shines in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it.

In the month ahead you may experience dark days, whatever form they take, I pray that you will recognise there is One who walks with you in the darkness and you will be reassured by the hope and peace that He brings.

John 1:5 "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."

Diana Parr

Elder and Ministerial Assistant