

February 2026

Although the weather may seem otherwise it's lovely to see little signs that spring is on its way! The evenings are already drawing out; the spring bulbs are starting to push their way through the soil and at dusk on a still afternoon the birds are singing. These first signs of spring aren't to say that winter has finished – we still have some time before that happens – but they serve as a reminder that its days are numbered. Spring breaks into winter despite the darkness, the frozen ground and harsh conditions.

A month into the new year and sadly the world seems to be in a place of darkness with wars; unpredictable leaders; division and hate; climate change; a struggling health system and I could go on All in all, there seems to be a general lack of optimism. But the Christian faith is all about hope and whilst the world may be in a dark place, we trust that God is at work and breaking into even the bleakest of circumstances. After all, we are assured in the Bible that one day all will be well; there will be a new creation where 'the leaves of the tree of life are for the healing of the nations' (*Revelation 22:2*) and 'Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away' (*Revelation 21:4*).

Like the first snowdrop pushing up through the frozen ground, God is here in the world bringing small glimmers of light into the darkness. This hope isn't sentimental optimism and we can learn to recognise the presence of God around us and gently making space for him again to meet us.

God Bless

Revd Sue

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