

Monthly Letter, July 2020

From the Bishop of Ramsbury, Andrew Rumsey



On a Good Day

Among the songs I have listened to frequently during lockdown, one has been especially sustaining. It's called *On a Good Day*, by Tim Keegan - a relatively unknown but gifted and perceptive songwriter. 'On a good day', he sings, 'I can see through the clouds', continuing: 'the search for truth and love that brought me to here, will carry on - I've nothing to fear... on a good day'. It's a deeply consoling tune and, like the best songs, a kind of advocate for how we might be feeling.

Each of us needs to know that our life is understood in its highs and lows - and that, ultimately, we are known, heard and loved. The deep assurance of our faith is that this is indeed the case: the Holy Spirit, scripture assures us, not only brings the word of God alive to us, but also carries our voice to God in groans beyond speech. Our life is hid with Christ, just as his life is hid with us.

These long weeks of confinement have brought you, I'm sure, a mixed bag of experiences: some good days along with the bad - days when we have known the sun on our face and the wind of God at our back, as the Celtic blessing puts it. As we embark upon the next season of this unforgettable year, may you know God's company and comfort - and a renewed hope that 'those who go out weeping, shall return with songs of joy'.

+Andrew Ramsbury