

Pollyanna or Eeyore?

Are you by nature an optimist or a pessimist? Probably a mixture, but veering towards one end or the other. Should we try to be more optimistic? Actually, I think hope is better, and different from optimism, and we should be full of hope, as well as realistic. Christ is the reason and source for that. Which doesn't mean we won't feel up and down in our moods, and these days maybe more than usual. Mostly, I have to admit, I'm enjoying life pretty well, though I'm very aware of how others are suffering, some we know and some we hear about. So much stress, grief, anxiety or sheer loneliness! Yet there's such a lot of good coming out, isn't there, motivated by empathy and fellow-feeling. We seem to be rediscovering our connectedness.

I wonder if sometimes you, like me, are telling yourself, "Don't forget these things .Don't loose and waste what they're teaching us," Will we let it all change us for good, so that we live more fully and give more of ourselves to others?

Lesson no.1, for me, will be about how we are connected with one another, near and far. We depend on each other for the necessities of life, for safety, health, knowledge and so much more. In times of need, we rely on one another for all kinds of help and support, and we find fulfilment so often in relation to others, sharing work, creativity, friendship, humour, love.

Lesson no. 2: cake, birdsong and conversation are all brilliant, but especially conversation.

The third lesson I want to learn is that the events of Good Friday and Easter are even more real than I thought. The ways in which the risen Jesus met his friends have such a ring of truth, and are not the sort of accounts anyone would invent. And Easter today is seen in the service and courage shown by so many people, the thoughtfulness, the inventiveness , the patience and so much else. It all seems to prove that God's love is undefeated and at work among us.

God is good and wonderful, in being in it all and giving himself so in many different ways. I want to keep this fresh in my mind, together with the truth that human beings are so often wonderful too. It's about God and us together, his Spirit keeping us connected with him and with each other, letting his love and joy flow in and among us.

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