

Thought from the Rectory March 2020

I am writing this in the days after Storm Ciara has wreaked havoc over the country with its strong winds and torrential rain. As we breathed a sigh of relief that the storm had passed, the weather forecasters started warning us of the approaching Storm Dennis, which is set to bring even more torrential rain, flooding and strong winds next weekend. Like me, you are probably really wanting spring to come with a period of settled dry, warm weather.

The Bible relates an account of a storm. Jesus was asleep in a boat on Lake Galilee when a fierce storm broke out. His companions, the Disciples, were frightened – they thought they were going to drown and woke Jesus, begging him to save them. He said “Peace be still,” and the storm ceased.

Most of us experience storms in our lives – we face difficulties and challenges as we journey through life. It may be our health or that of our loved ones, or we may have financial worries or concerns about employment. Sometimes our emotional life is in turmoil because of the circumstances we find ourselves in or the actions of other people, or we may be struggling to cope with the grief caused by bereavement. We may think that God doesn't care, that he is asleep in the boat. As a Christian, I believe that God does care, that I don't have to face these storms on my own. Jesus can give us peace and strength to deal with the storms in our lives. He doesn't always take them away, but he can help us face them and survive – and sometimes we survive the storm and come out stronger than when it started.

We are now in Lent, the time running up to Easter when many Christians make extra space to pray, to read the Bible and reflect on God's love. I recommend spending time during Lent praying that God will help you not to be afraid when the storms of life hit you but to trust him to bring you peace and comfort amidst the difficulties. If you want support to survive the storms in your life you will find a warm welcome in our Churches or you can contact the Rector, Revd John Rees whose details are in this magazine, for a confidential chat.

With best wishes,

Anne Rees