

Thoughts from the Rectory – February 2024

Dear Friends,

February is upon us, and it is the time of year we begin to see nature waking from the slumber of winter and starting to bring forth new shoots and buds of new life.

One of the things that I know I am not good at is caring for plants, whether that be in the garden or in the house. In fact, I think I probably have 'red for danger' fingers, rather than green ones, as I usually manage to kill off plants very quickly and I always panic slightly if anyone gives me a gift of a plant.



However, there is one exception to this and that is Orchids. For some reason, probably because I don't give them a lot of attention, I manage to keep orchids alive and they keep giving me new flowers, which always takes me by surprise – beautiful ones, despite my neglect! My orchid on the kitchen windowsill reminds me every time I look at it of the person who gave it to me as a gift a couple of years ago and when it blooms, which it does several times a year, it always makes me smile because of its resilience.

Glimpsing the first buds of the new year, whether snowdrops in the garden or orchids on the windowsill, always reminds me of hope. Spring is just around the corner and soon there will be a riot of colour around us instead of everything looking dull and miserable. They also remind me how God never gives up on us. He knows the potential we each have and will patiently care for us until we are ready to bloom.

Shortly we will be entering into the season of Lent, which for the Church is a time of preparation for the events of Holy Week and Easter as we remember the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Lent gives us the opportunity to focus on our spiritual life – by fasting, or giving something up, or taking extra time to pray or reflect on life, asking God what he wants to do in our lives during this new season.

Whether or not it is your practice to observe the season of Lent, my prayer for this season is that we will each have the time to stop and reflect, and perhaps think about how our lives may be unfurling and ready to bloom like the buds on the Orchid.

Jesus said '*I have come so that you can have life, and life in abundance*'.

John 10:10

With my love and prayers for an abundant February

Revd Ruth