

## Letter from Rev'd Sue Wilson

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but over my life time I've made many promises, quite a few to God, but I have to confess that my track record in keeping promises was not too good, because I seemed to be making many of the same promises I had made before!

Whether it's called maturity or common sense, in recent years I've stopped making promises. What I've done is turned my attention to the promises Jesus makes to me and that's had a deep effect on my life.

Jesus promises to send us the Holy Spirit and promises that he will never abandon us or desert us when things get tough.

During these days of Covid 19 the whole world has been thrown into confusion, panic, fear and uncertainty. Leaders, politicians, doctors and scientists are all struggling to find answers, develop plans, discover vaccines and therapeutics to combat this virus. Naturally we often turn to God and ask him for answers, but the fact is God wants to be known as our heavenly Father, not simply as the answer to everything that puzzles us. He's God, not Google. Faith is trusting God when he speaks and when he doesn't. I'm sure St Paul, with his towering intellect, found unanswered questions frustrating, but he knew that one day we will get answers! He trusted all God's promises and knew that he was never alone whatever he was facing.

Before he went back to heaven Jesus gave us an amazing promise and word of reassurance to help us through the darkest of times! 'And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' (Matthew 28:20)

If we are to accept, believe and act on the promises of Jesus, then we need to know what the promises are. If simply knowing what Jesus says is sufficient, remember Satan knows every word Jesus said. What Jesus promised each of us is the guidance and empowering of the Holy Spirit to help us know, believe and obey. Remember that we don't live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

The vicar was new to this parish, so he set out to get to know his parishioners. He spent quite a bit of time each day visiting people in their homes, sharing a cup of tea and having a chat with them.

One day he was invited to a house for lunch. The meal was excellent and the sense of hospitality was quite genuine. There was one thing that distracted him during most of the meal, so he decided to ask about it. Throughout the meal he heard the sound of running water. It bothered him because he was afraid that if the tap had been left on somewhere, there was damage being done.

Drawing the attention of his hosts to this, the hosts smiled and explained the situation to him. When they decided to build a house many years ago, they discovered there was a spring right in the centre of the building site. What should they do? After quite a bit of thinking they decided to develop the spring as a natural fountain and build a house around it. This meant that at all times they had a sense of a gurgling spring of fresh life-giving water right in the middle of the house.

How much is Jesus and his Spirit at the centre of our lives?

How necessary it is for us each day to be aware of the presence of that fountain of living water within!

With love and prayers to you all,

Every blessing,

Sue