

Reflections for July 19th - 6th Sunday after Trinity

Weeds among the wheat

Over the years I have learnt that I can be indecisive, and this can be a problem. Sometimes we are faced with situations which need a quick and clear decision about what to do, and I'm not always good at doing that. But there are also times when it may be better to take some time – to wait and see.

Following on from the parable of the sower last week, our gospel reading this week continues in Matthew chapter 13 with another parable that begins with sowing seeds. Jesus told a story about a man who sowed good seed, but then an enemy came in the night and sowed weeds among the wheat. When his workers noticed the weeds growing with the crop, they offered to pull up all the weeds, but the man said no. If they pulled up the weeds now, they might damage the crops as well. Better to wait until the harvest, and then recognise and clear all the weeds and destroy them, and gather the good harvest to keep.

As we are beginning to emerge from all the restrictions of the last few months, there is a lot of discussion about whether things will all go back to the way they were before, or if some things will change – and whether those changes will be for the better or not? In many ways it is too early to tell, and it may be best to wait and see, and find out over time what has really changed, and which changes are fruitful and should be held on to, and what is not helpful and should be thrown away.

Of course there are times when it is right to take decisive action, and there is evil that needs to be challenged and opposed now, but there are also situations where it is better to wait and see, until it becomes clear which are the weeds, and which are the fruits of a good harvest. And we can remember that, as Jesus explained this parable to his disciples, he spoke about God's judgement, and the hope of our faith that there will come a time when God will finally destroy all that is evil, and:

Then God's people will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom.

Revd John Waller

Loving God,
as we look at our lives and our world,
help us to recognise what is good and what is evil:
and help us to wait in hope for the day
when all that is evil will be weeded out,
and your people will shine like the sun
in the new life of your kingdom. Amen.

Bible readings: Isaiah 44. 6-8; Romans 8. 12-25; Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43