

One of the joys of Rural ministry is the sense of community and it is needed and shown now, thanks to the coronavirus, more than ever. I'm really heartened by the way people in the villages look after each other. Don't get me wrong I know it goes on in towns too, perhaps in the same street but villagers seem to take the caring to a whole new level.

I receive a prayer diary from one of the charities I support, Tearfund, and in Easter week the guidance for prayers were from the Scotland branch. Bear in mind these diaries are edited and published months in advance and yet the reflections and prayers were very apt for the times we find ourselves in now and show just how relevant Christ is in any circumstance.

They began with a poem for Easter Saturday by Graeme McMeekin:

*Between Friday and Sunday, is Saturday,
Between death and resurrection, is mourning,
Between uncertainty and certainty, is faith,
Between pain and celebration, is hope,
Between loneliness and community is love.*

The diary then goes through the week highlighting the projects that Tearfund and their partners are involved in and that of course encompasses care for the environment and care for our neighbours, overseas and at home. We are living in very strange times and so we need to show love to those we care for and those who care for us, so that a community of love is evident in what is for many a time of loneliness.

I end with that well known Gaelic blessing:

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

The Revd Trevor Gant