

Dear Grayshott,

October 2019

Most of us are just shaking our heads at what is happening in the country: as I write, our Parliament is suspended, the atmosphere of uncertainty rolls on, the settled order of our expectation of 'how things work', gets eroded by the day. It seems that no one in power has any real power, and we have seen politicians going to extraordinary lengths to undermine and out-manoeuvre each other. What is going on? And where are we going?

This state of affairs nationally unsettles us to greater or lesser degrees, for most of us, supporting our families, doing our work, dealing with the next medical issue preoccupies our time and energies. So we live with our personal circumstances in the midst of a national situation over which most of us can do nothing.

Some of us may know at least the first lines of 'The Serenity Prayer' used by Alcoholics Anonymous, said to be by Reinhold Niebuhr,

*"God, grant me the serenity, to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference" It goes on: "Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as the pathway to peace. Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it. Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will. That I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen."*

With the obvious reference to Jesus's example, it presents a way forward: acceptance. It is not passively allowing ourselves to be steamrollered by circumstances, but it is an act of faith, trusting, asking for discernment and wisdom. Seeing clearly, and acting where we can. Sometimes small shifts can have an enormous effect, an act of kindness, a phone call, a card sent to someone in distress, stepping out and doing something new. I am proud of our community, and the enormous commitment I see to building our community here in Grayshott. Let us continue to build our community and pray for our nation. Join us on Sundays and at the many events St Luke's puts on, to seek that personal serenity, in the midst of all that is going on.

Jeremy Haswell