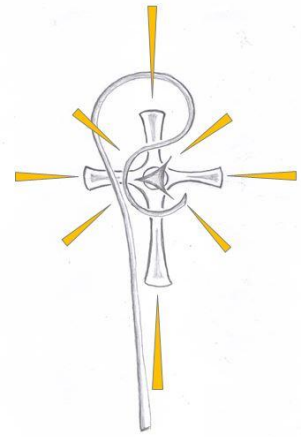


The New Normal

Christ is risen - He is risen indeed

A 'New Normal' is the order of Eastertide—when we adjust to being loved beyond measure – when we remember yet again the forgiving, inclusive love of God through Christ in our lives. The event changed the world, and it keeps changing us, whatever our circumstances.



Changing times frequently rock the foundations of our 'normal' life. When fearful events confront us, the words, 'Why me?' easily come to mind. None of us is safe from adversity, but we have a God who knows what it's like.

On Mothering Sunday our little grandchild was given a life-changing diagnosis. A new way of 'mothering' challenged us all. I grabbed an old notebook in which to scribble notes on 'How to cope'. The empty book had 5 words inside: **'Give thanks in all circumstances'**. (1 Thess 5.18). I had written them years ago, for some forgotten reason. I admit I didn't feel very thankful! But the notebook now supports us as the 'new normal' unfolds.

Whether we feel that we are a success or a failure, lucky or a victim of circumstance, Christ can change our perspective on ourselves, and on the world around us. Christ transformed death into new life. Christ can transform our failures and our victimhood into resilience and inspiration. Christ can also transform our good fortune into opportunities for others.

Currently the whole world is experiencing uncertainty and change as 'Trumpism' takes hold. A new world order will face us all in one way or other. The 'normal' we are used to is being re-shaped by powers beyond us. If you feel overwhelmed by these or any unforeseen circumstances, take heart – we are reassured of God's steadfast love in all circumstances to guide us through the wilderness and storms of life and shape new ways.

So may the 'new normal' of Eastertide refresh our days – as we adjust to the being loved beyond measure – as we remember the forgiving, steadfast love of Christ in our lives. And let's try to **'give thanks in all circumstances'**.