

A WORD FROM THE RECTORY

To be honest the last month has been beyond belief. I have found myself gasping with horror at the many twists and turns. Pennie has suffered from me saying rude things to Radio Four on many mornings in response to our either very violent world, or the political duplicity trotted out glibly; as if the listener is an idiot. I have felt sorry for Tim Farron because he comes over as an honest and sincere individual with good intentions. Just in case you want to ask. I am in favour of same-sex marriage and very pleased that two people are able to love each other so much that they wish to make marriage vows. Three Cheers for the Episcopal Church of Scotland.

Three Cheers for Ariana Grande and the young people of Manchester and beyond for their wonderful spirit of generosity, goodness and fun. Some Christians believe in looking for Christian distinctiveness. They may be right. I feel deeply that we need to be looking for human togetherness. There is an equality of value of each and every human being in the eyes of God. All are loved, and in their individual ways have a way of being loved by all. Yes there are people who have psychopathic disorders. I have met a few. There are people who are just willingly and gratuitously bad. I have met a few of them as well. Some of them have been Christians, some have had no faith, and some have had another faith.

We are all individuals. Wasn't Liam Gallagher wonderful when he was strutting on that Manchester stage? Almost as good as Freddie Mercury. It was wonderful to see on the news people doing kind and selfless things as a response to that dreadful fire in Grenfell Tower. I suspect that many of us have shed a tear over the past few weeks.

Today I salute everyone in this community and beyond who continuously performs acts of gratuitous kindness. That is how we develop distinctive Britishness. It's also at the heart of Christian, Islamic and other religious thought. As a community we have many great ways to meet each other. We also manage many ways of supporting those in need. You can develop your own slogan. Mine will be: "Peace Love and Harvey's".

Thanks for reading.

Desmond