

## **From the Manse: A Thought for the Week Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Dear Friends,**

**Sadly, over the past few weeks and months it feels as though the world is in turmoil. When we listen to the news, read the headlines, or scroll through our phones, we see stories of war, displacement, political tension, natural disasters, and deep suffering. It can sometimes feel overwhelming. The problems seem so large and so far beyond our control that we may begin to wonder if there is anything we can really do.**

**At times like this it is easy to feel helpless. We might ask ourselves, what difference can one person make? Yet our faith reminds us that even when the world feels chaotic, we are never powerless. God calls each of us to respond in small but meaningful ways. While we may not be able to solve all the world's problems, we can still be part of God's work of compassion and hope even in a small way. 🌍**

**One of the most powerful things we can do is pray. Prayer is not simply a last resort when nothing else can be done; it is a real and meaningful way of placing the needs of the world into God's loving hands. When**

**we pray for those affected by conflict, for families forced to flee their homes, and for those working for peace, we are joining in God's care for the world. Prayer also shapes our hearts, helping us remain compassionate rather than becoming overwhelmed or indifferent. 🙏**

**Another way we can help is by supporting charities and organisations that work on the front lines of crisis. Across the world there are people serving in refugee centres, delivering aid in war zones, providing food, shelter, medical care, and education to those who need it most. While we may never meet the people whose lives are changed by this work, our support helps make it possible.**

**And perhaps most importantly, we can remember that our calling begins right where we are. Sometimes the most meaningful acts of kindness happen close to home. Looking out for a neighbour, supporting someone who is struggling, or contributing to local initiatives are all ways of sharing God's love within our own community.**

**As we approach Easter, this is a particularly important reminder. Easter is a season that speaks of hope during darkness and new life emerging when all seems lost. The resurrection story reminds us that**

**even when things appear bleak, God is still at work bringing transformation and renewal. 🕊️**

**One small way we can live out this hope together is through our food table and community support efforts. In the coming weeks, as families continue to face rising costs, we will once again be collecting Easter eggs and other items to share with those who may otherwise go without. For many children, a simple Easter egg can bring a moment of joy and remind them that they are thought about and cared for.**

**It may seem like a small gesture, but small acts of kindness matter. A prayer offered quietly, a donation given generously, or an Easter egg placed on the table for someone else can all be signs of God's love at work in the world. 🟠**

**The problems of the world may feel vast, but the light of Christ spreads through countless small acts of compassion. When we pray, give, and care for others, we become part of that light.**

**And sometimes, that is exactly how hope begins.**

**With every blessing,**

**Rev Jade**