

Change and Decay?

The well-known hymn “Abide with me”, which is, I think, still sung at F.A.Cup finals as well as at funerals and evening services, includes the line “Change and decay in all around I see”. Well, I don’t know about “decay”, but there has been a lot of change just lately, hasn’t there.

The result of the Referendum has delighted some and saddened others. But whichever way you voted, and whatever outcome you thought would be the best one, we all know that the world will not be the same after that vote. The UK will change. The rest of Europe will change. And there will be major impacts on the rest of the world, too.

But that’s not all that seems to be changing. We shall be having a new Prime Minister as Theresa May takes over from David Cameron. And maybe by the time you read this, Jeremy Corbyn will have been replaced as leader of the Labour Party. And changes of leadership in political parties always mean changes in the way our lives are lived and the way our country is governed.

Change can be quite threatening, can’t it? When something changes in our own personal lives, we can feel anxious and disturbed. When the political and economic life of our nation changes, there can be similar feelings of threat and anxiety.

None of us knows what the future holds for this country. Some people have told us that the UK leaving the EU will lead to dramatic and negative change, while others are full of hope that on our own we can forge a better future for ourselves. We hope and pray that there are good times ahead. We pray that our nation will grow together and that all of us – and especially those who are most in need – will find positive things for the future and not desperation, isolation and economic woes.

I have to say that, despite the outcome of the Referendum, I am full of hope for the future. I remember that when Jesus finally left his disciples as he ascended into heaven, his last words to them were “Behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

Whatever choices we make, whatever the political turmoil of the times in which we live, God is with us and promises us wonderful times in the future ahead of us.

And I pray for myself and for all of us, that we may have confidence in the God who created us and loves us for all eternity. May God bless us in the times to come.

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