

The Vicar's Letter



Dear Friends,

One of the joys of my daughter Sophie waking in the early hours of the morning when she was a little younger was the opportunity to spend more time with her. And during this time, more often than not, she would ask to watch *Frozen* – Disney's adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's story *The Snow Queen*. In it, a kingdom is turned into disarray at the hands of its Queen as it becomes a winter wonderland in the height of summer. Princess Anna (Queen Elsa's younger sister) tries to remedy the situation and despite being mortally wounded, in her final moments, she saves her sister, the Queen, from being slain by the sword by an ambitious and selfish Prince. At the end of the story the kingdom is returned to summer and relationships are restored. Filled with catchy music and a talking snowman it is an enchanting film to watch. It is a story of love, sacrifice, honour, friendship, fear, and hope.

Although this is not a biblical story it nevertheless encapsulates the Gospel message of Christ's love extremely powerfully. Love in the *Frozen* film is revealed in 2 ways: firstly as sacrificial love as the young princess – out of love – sacrifices her own life to save her sister's. And secondly we see transformative love – love that renews or restores and enables new possibilities. A love that overcomes the fears that control and prevent things from happening.

Christ's love for us, and all humanity, is both sacrificial and transformative. During February we shall once more embark on our Lenten Journey of walking in the way of the Cross to witness afresh Christ's sacrificial love through his offering of himself upon the cross for our salvation and his transformative love in renewing creation through his mighty resurrection.

As we make this pilgrimage in faith we might like to ask ourselves where Christ's transformative love could be at work in our lives and in our community? What are the things that control us or scare us? What needs to be renewed or restored? What might we sacrifice to enable this to happen?

I wish you all a very happy and holy Lent.

Every Blessing,

Mike