

Christ Church Freemantle

Sunday 6th December – Second Sunday of Advent



My last thought for the week was on 21st June, the day after the summer solstice: this one isn't far off the winter solstice and I've been thinking of Stonehenge again. For some reason my grandson (aged 3) is very interested in Stonehenge and mentions it quite a bit. To celebrate the end of lockdown and our wedding anniversary, we booked a visit to Stonehenge on Friday with him. On arrival a change in status was immediately apparent, from the green prefabs of our last visit, to the fabulous new buildings worthy of the World Heritage Site it is today. It was perfect for a visit, a cold, but sunny winters day, and we were almost the only people there. There is a something mysterious about the place – what did it mean? – why did they put the enormous effort into constructing it? - and upgrading it for continued use over 1500 years? With that amazing view in all directions to the surrounding hills, you can feel how central it must have been: the remembrance of people who had come before; the link to life giving sunshine, sustaining crops; people trying to understand their place in the world.

During this year we have all had cause to address the question of our place in the world. Perhaps we had an unwarranted sense of security, modern science and technologies having delivered a very comfortable and safe existence for most of us in the UK, though not for all people on the planet. Even with the recent good news of vaccines on the way, the reality of life today is in some ways not so different from that of those ancient people. The coming of Jesus has helped us to see our place in the world, we are to follow his example in life and trust in him always.



*But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come quickly to me, O God.
You are my help and my deliverer;
LORD, do not delay. Psalm 70, 5*

Ruth Pickering