

## Thoughts on Life and Faith – May 2017

I was in London twice in April – on the Tuesday and the Thursday around the Wednesday when the latest terror attack happened at Westminster. It felt remarkably safe although the police presence on the Thursday was very marked. Since then we've had the terror attack in Sweden and the church bombings in Egypt both at the hands of those who seek only to kill and maim.

I write this in Holy Week, when the devastating violence that would be done to Jesus was still gathering in force. The desire of some to kill and pursue an agenda of violence was no different in 1<sup>st</sup> century Palestine.

What is remarkable about Jesus' response to these gathering forces of evil was his submission to the authorities, his refusal to defend himself and his words of support and love to those nearby as he hung in searing agony on the cross. His actions a working out of his words to his disciples, 'Love your enemies. Do good to those who hurt you.'

On that Wednesday in Westminster, the emergency services did an amazing job. In the middle of the incredible acts of bravery and self-sacrifice, attempts were made to save the life of the terrorist, Khalid Masood. To treat someone who has done such a terrible act with compassion is a measure of the true strength of our country, whose values have been built on a faith in Christ. Where we refuse to submit to fear, to revenge and to hate, we stand alongside the crucified Christ who said 'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do'. And the power of that evil is broken. Those who seek to kill want nothing more than to bring further violence and hate and fear in their wake. It is up to us to be different.

Every Blessing

Pauline Scott (Rector) 01206 823163/ paulinecms@btinternet.com