

## A Reflection for “Reflections”

Don't know! Can we? Should we? Is it safe? Are we allowed? Phrases that will probably have dominated our thoughts and actions over the last 3 months.

We are living in uncertain times, and that uncertainty is likely to continue for quite a while yet. Up until very recently we had been living with strict guidelines from the government and our uncertainty was over our health and safety. Now however, those restrictions are being gradually lifted, and those phrases mentioned at the beginning really do come into play. They are brought up all the time in the press and the media, fuelling even further our own concerns and worries about what may be safe and what is not.

When I saw the pictures of Bournemouth and Southend beaches in that very hot weather I was initially quite cross, but then I thought: “Am I being fair – living where I do. How would I behave if I had spent the last 3 months cooped-up in a flat, high-rise, or crowded housing, and then had the opportunity to get away? Would I have turned away when I saw the crowded beach? Would I have gone home again? “ I suspect not!

Having faith as a Christian does not remove the uncertainty that all are feeling, and we, like everyone, have to learn to live with it. What we do have however is the promise that Jesus gave to all who believe in Him, the promise of eternal life. **That brings hope, even in uncertainty.** Hebrews tells us “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.” When Paul wrote to Titus (ch1 v 2) he made reference to “a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time”.

The hope that we have been given through Jesus Christ helps carry us through these difficult times. It doesn't take away those concerns, worries and uncertainties, but it helps us, along with the power of the Holy Spirit, to deal as best we can with all that life throws at us.

In the meantime we wait, in hope, for that time when we can physically meet together again in worship and praise.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”. Romans 15 v 13.

Peter Byatt.