

Reverently Yours

Lay Minister Julie Jones writes:



Dear Friends

When you read this, many children and young people will be about to embark on a new chapter of their lives. As I write, exam results loom with A levels this week and GCSE's next. Some will get the results they hoped for, some won't, similarly with children starting new schools, some will have got into their first choice of school and some will be starting at their 2nd or 3rd choice, the thing to remember is that nobody's life is ever defined by a mere piece of paper.

Transition and change, new beginnings are part of all of our lives, be they welcome or not so welcome how we deal with them makes all the difference, starting a new school, college or university, apprenticeship or job, can be incredibly daunting but God is with us in our transitions, the stories in scripture show us time and time again that God offers people a new beginning, another chance for great things.

There is a book by Susan Jeffers called "Feel the fear and do it anyway", it's message is basically that the only way to get rid of the fear of doing anything is to go out and do it. I have just come back from three days away with a great bunch of people and five fabulous Fell ponies where one of the activities was a gallop on the beach. I found out towards the end of our stay that one of our party nearly bailed out a couple of weeks before we went, she was so nervous about the beach gallop. But she came along. Now I'm not entirely sure if it was a "feel the fear and do it anyway" moment or more of a "hop on, hang on and hope for the best" but she did it and after the first gallop her words were "let's go again!"

If you are facing a change or new experience right now, or know someone who is, my prayer is that you know that God is with you and will bring you to where you are meant to be, regardless of if you are a "feel the fear" or a "hang on and hope for the best" person. There is a night blessing by Malcolm Duncan I would like to share with you:

May you fly higher, go further and see more clearly than you ever have before. May you have courage to spread your wings and catch the wind of your spirit and may He lead you to a profound sense of freedom and possibility. May what lies ahead capture your imagination.

With every blessing,

Julie