

Empty Pots?

Welcome to our reflection for Church without Walls

Here are some ideas of how to use these reflections:

Pray that God will lead your thoughts.

Sit comfortably, take a few deep breaths and relax.

Let your mind wander as you read the reflection. Write down your thoughts in a notebook. If you are busy, try and pick out something to take with you in odd moments during the day.

You may wish to memorise the Bible verse. Write it out and stick it up somewhere.

Bible Verse

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

(2 Corinthians 5:7)



Reflection

On the face of it, the picture is of three empty pots – or pots which are compost filled but otherwise empty. However, having planted them, I know that beneath the surface they are full of tulip bulbs, buried deep as they like to be. They will sleep like that in my garden for many months.

On the surface nothing appears to be happening, and there will be quite a wait before the tulips spring into action, but it is a very special kind of waiting.

In life do you have a sense of waiting – perhaps suspended animation a bit like the bulbs?

What can you do to make it a special kind of waiting?

What can't be rushed?

What is happening beneath the surface?

The bulbs will burst through the earth when the time is right. Impatience will not help. I need to focus on other things in the meanwhile.

Where do you focus your attention while you wait?

Because I have planted the tulips and I have been through this process before I have some confidence in the outcome, but there can still be problems: heavy rain causes rot and squirrels get hungry in winter. However I hope and trust that all will be well, even if things don't turn out quite as I expect.

We now have the good news of a potential vaccine for Covid-19 and the beginning of a timescale. We have no previous experience of this process. It is more important than the tulip bulbs but there are similarities. Impatience won't help and things can still go wrong. If we expect it to put things back to normal straight away our expectations may not be met but there is hope none the less.

We can give thanks for all those involved in the development of the vaccine – scientists, doctors, technicians, volunteers – and for all those preparing to deliver and administer it. We can pray that their work will go safely and well. Beyond that we continue to pray, we play our part in daily life and we trust.

For we walk by faith, not by sight.



Lindsay Farley