

### Reflection Friday Week 3 – 2021

Any seed or plant needs time to be nurtured and to grow, much of which takes place during the winter months when silence covers the land. As Winter recedes, the first plants begin to show their heads. Snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils begin to appear, all of which have lain silent in the earth since autumn last year. Their appearance heralds new life. They bring colour into the world and gradually the silence is broken with new birdsong. The air is filled with hope and promise. The pandemic, through which we have been living, has certainly brought a darkness and silence across the land, isolating people one from the other. Visiting and being with family has been greatly restricted, giving a feeling of oppression and imprisonment. Yet, beneath the surface, much good is taking place.

The poor, the lonely, those without enough food are being fed and helped in many different ways. Neighbour has come to know neighbour and new relationships have been forged. Support for the elderly and isolated has grown. The vaccines brought new hope – signs of a new Spring - even though we still have to wait. The hope is that we will be able to tame and overcome the virus and that a more charitable, more caring and more loving society will emerge. But, let us not forget our duty of care for creation. The less wasteful, the less we throw away, the more we will help our planet which, in turn, will help those people suffering most from climate change. In the future we will do things not because *I am worth it!* but because **others are worth it**. Being less selfish and more altruistic will benefit us as well as others, so let us join with the psalmist (Ps. 36/37) *“If you trust in the Lord and do good, then you will live in the land and be secure. If you find your delight in the Lord, he will grant your heart’s desire.”*