

Time 2: Our Life

Thought For The Day: BBC Radio Jersey Tue Oct 15th 2013 @ 8.30am

In my first appointment I was chaplain to a hospice north of Portsmouth. As a fledgling cleric it was a steep learning curve to know how to minister to the many patients and family that visited every year. On reflection it was they who enriched me. As we chatted over a cup of tea they would often say something poignant, humorous or profound.

One day, as I sat in the conservatory overlooking the gardens, a man commented on the first daffodils showing in the garden. He asked if I would wheel him out in his chair so that he could see them more closely. So the two of us at different ends of life's journey stared at this bold, yellow, trumpeting flower swaying in the wind.

He knew that this would be his last spring and he was making the most of it. Somehow his mortality was sharpening his sense of the time he had- and this daffodil was a sign of beauty and hope. Without feigned emotion he leant over and said, "I have had a good life - but I do wish that I had given myself more time to stop, think and be thankful".

The Poet of the Bible said "As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more".

To be reminded of the brevity of our years need not be morbid. It can spur us to appreciate what we have in the here and now. It can remind us that because life is finite we do well to find time each day to sense our place with God and the optimistic words, "The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting".

So whether we anticipate many years of Spring daffodils, or just a few, God invites us to live each day to the full and in our brief mortal span commit to those things that really matter.