

Thought for Sunday 8th November

War, plague, famine and death – these are the names attached to the four horsemen of the apocalypse in that most strange of biblical books, Revelation. And in their wake comes great sorrow. But the point about the Book of Revelation is you must keep reading to the end. Don't give up when it gets scary – or even when it becomes terrifying. Persevere and you will come to the glorious vision of the new Heaven and the new Earth, the river of the Water of Life flowing through the Celestial City and the tree whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.

This world is not as God designed to be. There is pain here, and sorrow. The men who we remember and honour today discovered that. The doctors and nurses who have fought so hard to save lives on the frontline in our hospitals this year discovered that. And, like the young soldiers, sailors and airmen who served in the world wars and since, too many of our health professionals also lost their lives in the fight.

May they all rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Let us hold on to the promise in John's vision. When the Kingdom comes at last, all bad things, all sad things, will pass away and the light of God's presence will surround us forever.



<Artwork credit>One of the panels from the series 'Threads of Revelation' by textile artist Jacqui Parkinson.

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