

New Beginnings

But the Lord says, “Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already – you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there. Even the wild animals will honour me; jackals and ostriches will praise me when I make rivers flow in the desert to give water to my chosen people.

Isaiah 43 vv18–20

We have been living in Scotland for 21 years now (Yes! I know we are still incomers!!) but I still can't get used to children going back to school in mid-August instead of September, and all the usual activities starting up when I still feel it's the Summer holidays. I have recently returned, with great joy, to Choral Union and Gilbert and Sullivan rehearsals. But, of course, this has not been a normal summer break. We are returning to some of our normal activities after months of struggling with Zoom and not being able to interact with people face to face, and how wonderful it is. At the same time I have been left thinking, “Do I really want to go back to all the things I was doing? Do I really want to live life in a great rush all the time? Are there other more useful things I should be doing?” Perhaps this is a good time to look at our lives, both as individuals and as a Church family, and with God's guidance, make a fresh start and see what God can do through us.

Father God

As we think of new beginnings, we offer you our lives and our activities and ask you to guide us in the right direction. Help us not to cling to what has happened in the past but to be open to new ideas and opportunities.

We think of those who, this week, have been forced to face completely new lives as they have fled from Afghanistan. Help us to welcome people in this situation in any ways we can. Be with those who have been forced to stay in a country where they no longer feel safe or valued, and we pray for a better, more inclusive life for them, a life with new beginnings.

Help each one of us to watch for the new things you are going to do through us and for us and embrace them.

Amen.