**Friday 26th June**

Philippians 2: 14 – 16a

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.

How are you doing in this heat? I have to admit, I found myself leaning towards grumbling yesterday! Especially in the evening when no-one in the house could get to sleep! I spoke to my Mum during the day who, when she asked how I was, received the reply ‘Hot!’. She then said ‘Yes, but we’re not grumbling! Isn’t it lovely!’

Of course, this is a trivial example. But Paul writes to the Philippians – a church under fire – that they should do everything without grumbling or arguing! That is quite a tall order! But do you know, I think this is a word for now! There has been a shift in the seasons. The camaraderie and good will of the early days of lockdown seems to have given way to grumbling and arguing.  I think that as Christians we will ‘shine like stars’ if we can come in the opposite spirit. If we can speak peace and hope that will change the spiritual atmosphere around us, and as children of God we will be expressing the family likeness. How do we do this? Hold firmly to the word of life – the Word made flesh - the Word that brings Life in all its fullness. Remember the goodness and mercy of God expressed in Jesus.

Isn’t it a glorious day?!!!

*Father, we thank you for the many good things that you give us, the abundant blessings that we enjoy! We recognise today that we have done nothing to earn your favour, and yet you pour goodness and mercy into our lives! Forgive us for the times that we give way to grumbling and arguing. Would you so shape us by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit, that our words bring life and hope instead. In Jesus Name. Amen*

