

“In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice.....and I WAIT expectantly” (Psalm 5)

***“Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who WAIT FOR HIM” (Isaiah 64: 4)***

This constructive ‘waiting’ needs to be cultivated along with ‘listening’ for God’s prompting. It doesn’t come naturally to many of us. When I was being considered for Reader/ LLM training I was instructed to read ‘The Stature of Waiting’ – a classic on this subject by W H Vanstone. Cultivating a ‘mindset’ of waiting (the process of discernment/acceptance for training takes one year!) is considered an important element in this.

For me, and for many, I suspect, this Advent season is feeling very different from previous years, when December has felt like a marathon to be run - or maybe an obstacle race is a more appropriate analogy – finally crossing the finishing line in an exhausted heap on Christmas Day (actually Boxing day for those involved in Church ministry!) Oh the joy of having more time to reflectively prepare for Christmas! Reference my previous blog: Is the legacy of COVID all negative??

I’ll end this blog with part of R S Thomas’s poem ‘Kneeling’ which, I think, provides us with a prayer for Advent:

***Prompt me, God
But not yet.
When I speak
Though it be you who speak
Through me, something is lost.
The meaning is in the waiting.***