

## Today

Today I watched an episode of Blue Planet and found myself in awe of David Attenborough, the production team, the film crew and the underwater and digital technology that brought such wonderful images to my television screen. For all that, I was more in awe of a part of the natural world I had never really thought about before let alone seen. God preserve this wonderful, wonderful planet.

Today the news is full of new and old revelations concerning abuse of sex and power. Robert Mugabe is about to be replaced. Replaced with a good president? Or another version of what the replacer is replacing? Only time and history will tell us. Today Brexit is still in the news and will be for a long time. As will be the uncertainty, anger and confusion that surrounds the whole issue. And that dreaded B word, which I initially refused to use has become part of our lexicon and I've written it without hesitation. But, trivia aside, today it is clear to me that the political landscape in the western world is as confused as it has ever been in my six score years and one.

Today we know that there are some phenomenally wealthy individuals and corporations in the world. We also know that some individuals and corporations don't play ball when it comes to paying their rightful share of taxes. Today I am thinking about the desperate need for the new night shelter in King's Lynn and the increasing number of people relying on our local food bank.

Today there is increasing tension between the USA and North Korea. Today there is an increasing probability that Russia interferes with the news, information, truth, elections, politics, and propaganda of many countries including this one (a big list? A big problem). Today China is rapidly increasing its might and power and wants to arm itself on a par with America. Today we know that carbon emissions will increase next year and the implications for the future of our wonderful, wonderful planet are very serious and scary.

Today I am thinking about the paradox of this planet. Its wonder and its potential against the place we find ourselves in today. Can you hear God saying, (paraphrasing Oliver Hardy) "Well, here's another fine mess you've gotten yourselves into"? I think abuse of power and authority lies at the heart of the human problem, and all the problems we cause. Tomorrow (next year actually), I'll write about Jesus and what he says and lives out when it comes to power and authority. He's got a huge amount to teach us about power and authority. Jesus teaches about our future too and how to discover the future he intends us to have.

The Christmas message is given for times such as ours. Do come along to our Advent and Christmas services and hear why the Good News far outweighs the bad stuff that we are hearing about today.

James

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