

Dear friends,

Well it seems like the past few weeks have been all about sons. On the 18th February my youngest son made me a grandma for the first time as Robbie Thomas Fraser was born at 3 O'clock in the afternoon weighing 7b 3oz. He is gorgeous and doing well and I am so proud of both my son and his son. They came to messy church when Robbie was a week old and completely disrupted our prayer time before the start of Messy church; who knew so many people could move so fast on mass to surround a baby and his dad? It's lovely being a grandma, as I'm sure so many of you know, as so good that they live so close that I can pop round for a cuddle with Robbie whenever I'm passing.

Sadly, these last few weeks we've journeyed with the Cowan family as their son became critically ill and has spent weeks in hospital undergoing many operations and lots of uncertainty. The prayers of so many people including everyone from this church have carried them through a tough time and James is now on his way home! But still in need of our prayers. Thank you all for your faithfulness in praying for this family and this situation and your care and concern for the family.

Also this month we have journeyed with God's son, Jesus, on his way to the cross to earn our salvation. During lent we reflected on the things that Jesus carried to the cross, which included the cross, the crown of thorns, a seamless robe, his follower's disappointments and the sins of the world. We celebrated the last supper together gathered around a table and sharing a meal, just as Jesus did with the disciples. We spent an hour at the cross on Good Friday hoping to engage our imaginations and our hearts as well as our heads and our minds in order to gain a deeper understanding of what the cross was like for Jesus. Then we came together to celebrate the resurrection and the glorious good news that God has raised Jesus from the dead and given us life eternal and a new relationship with God in the process!

As I consider these three images of sons I am reminded of just some of the depth of God's love for us. As I am filled with love and pride for my own son and his son I am reminded about how God's heart must swell with love and pride as he looks on us his children. As watch the care, concern and commitment of parents for a son in hospital I am reminded how much God cares for us and how much God is concerned for us when things go wrong for us and how deep God's commitment to us is. And of all this is shown as God takes our place and dies on a cross to show us just how much we are loved by the creator of everything that is seen and everything that is unseen. How can we not stand in awe and worship God for the love that he shown us?

I'll leave you with some words from a Matt Redman song that sum it up for me, 274 Singing the Faith:

“And once again I look upon
The cross where you died,
I’m humbled by your mercy
And I’m broken inside.
Once again I thank you,
Once again I pour out my life.”

Yours in Christ

Rev Jan