

Melissa's Thought for the Month – December 2015

Usually I am writing my "Thought" around a week before the deadline date. This month it is already the day immediately before! The news of the deadly bombing in Paris is of so much concern that I felt it necessary to wait for the latest news today, both in the paper and on the TV.

The image in my mind is of that suicide bomber standing trying to be sure that he chooses the exactly right moment to cause the explosion. The idea was clearly to produce the greatest possible damage and fear. A terrorist knows that people who are afraid are often unwise in their reactions. They may panic themselves or create panic among others. We do not know whether he was acting alone or was part of a group of extremists.

If you read this last week's Southport Visiter (November 19th); you may have been struck as I was by Canon Garner's article on the "ongoing battle" of good versus evil. Incidentally I always let him have a copy of The Link because when I used to go to Kim's for coffee nearly every day, we used to meet there and talk pretty often. This time I put a note on his copy saying that I should mention it in this issue.

If anyone has claimed responsibility for the Paris bombs it is the group called ISIS. Is that a part of the "Islamic State" movement? If so it certainly does not point the finger at the problems as such.

Their faith is, I believe, in "There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is the Prophet". It is clearly very much in parallel with our "We believe in one God and Jesus, His son is one with Him". After all Jesus said during his earthly life "I and the Father are One, he who has seen me has seen the Father". This may be in parallel but of course it goes very much further.

Jesus also referred to His kingdom. He added, though, "They Kingdom is not of this world or else my Servants would fight". The only fight to which we are committed is the fight against evil in ourselves.

None of us is perfect and everyone of us has temptations not to fight it "with all our might". Perhaps for many of us part of that fight is against complacency – "I'm alright Jack!"

One Christmas picture which I recollect is of Baby Jesus playing with a wooden cross. Did the carpenter, Joseph, make it for Him?

When troubles come at Christmas time it seems somehow "wrong" – but is it.

Happy Christmas everybody.

Melissa.