

Melissa's Thought for the Month – March 2015

March traditionally either comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, or vice-versa. When I am writing this it is not yet obvious which way round it will be this year. So far February has been very lamb-like, but we hear of storms on the other side of the Atlantic. Our weather pattern very often follows theirs. On the other hand, we keep seeing patterns of the Jet Stream which can alter things dramatically!

It is interesting how often the lion and the lamb are associated in our thinking. Whenever we visit the Lake District and pass by Grasmere we look up at Helm Crag above the village. There the rocks are so arranged that from one angle, they show a silhouette very like a lion with a lamb lying peacefully by its front paws. If we are viewing it from the Kirkstone Pass this soon changes. We see instead "the man playing the organ". I just wonder if the tune played could be "sheep may safely graze"?

It is not only the meteorological "weather" which is constantly changing. The relationships between nations are by no means static. All through the ages the Middle East is rather like a cauldron – sometimes merely simmering and at others, threatening to reach boiling point. Recently we have been concerned for people have to leave their homes and look for places of safety. Now the so-called "Islamic State" appears to be starting open hostilities.

Not far away from the troubles in the Eastern Ukraine look likely to arouse the "Russian Bear". What a heavy burden is carried by political leaders of peace loving countries like U.S.A., Britain and most of the E.U. etc! When and to what extent is any "aid" of intervention called for? Does the lion have any responsibility for quarrelsome lambs?

This year, the whole of March lies within the season of Lent. Once again, I have "given up" my plaything of "Sudoku". This allows much more time for serious reading and meditation. This has created a new problem; how to choose one thought for the month!

The Lion and the Lamb theme was suggested by two T.V. programmes which I have recently enjoyed. One was the life of a "pride" of lions. It was fascinating to see how the dominant male protected his selected group of females with their young. The other was an edition of "Countryfile" in which Mark was carrying a newly born white lamb casually hanging from his strong hands. One pair of its little legs was dangling on each side of that safe grip.

Which is the centre of our Faith – the Lion of Judah or the Lamb of God? Surely this is a false antithesis. The God of Abraham in the Old Testament is the same God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is His spirit (the Holy Spirit) which alone can guide us in our search for truth and in that very ordinary choices of our daily human lives. In fact Jesus came to earth simply to show us how it could be done!

Melissa.