

Thoughts for the fourth week in Advent

I read a quote this week – Kingdom people are history makers, and it got me thinking about the history makers of 2020. Who would you put on your list of those who have made history this year? Marcus Rashford is on my list for his efforts to ensure children did not go hungry when the schools were closed, even when the government was determined to stick to their policy, and he won. Captain Tom opened the eyes of so many to think about what they can do rather than dwell on what they cannot do, and he encouraged people in their support of the NHS in its 70th year, and what a momentous year.



Other people who have been a part of history this year have to be scientists and two that made it on to the famous scientists list this year are Zhang Yongzhen who went against the Chinese Government and posted the Covid 19 genome online, this has helped in the search for a vaccine; Kathrin Jansen is the head vaccine researcher at Pfizer who has spent the year coordinating teams and pushing possibilities to create the first usable vaccine in 210 days.

As a mathematician, my mind often sees such statements and tests the reverse for deductive reasoning and no, not all history makers are Kingdom people, at least not in sense that the actions of history makers always are to the benefit of humanity. Some are more notorious than notable.



To go back to the quote this was an introduction to looking at people who break through the smallness of the world and step into the fullness of creation. Mary and Joseph were history makers in the faith story. Mary knew where her life was going, and then an angel appeared and the fullness of creation invited courage, and belief and connection and she stepped into a new reality. Joseph stepped with her, he did not have to, but he also became aware of a different reality.

Nothing in life, or religion, prepares you for such moments, they are soul moments, a moment when something deep within you connects and you 'know'. Some people call this cosmic consciousness, some call it the Spirit, but you have to open to possibilities and have courage to step out of the accepted path when you hear the call. As church, when we gather together should we be sharing and listening together to enable us to dream and dare together? We can be history makers, we can dare to step through from the certainty of our small world into the grandeur of the fullness of creation. We are Kingdom people.

This year has taught us that we can still learn new ways to do things. Even if you are not familiar with technology you can use it to keep in touch in ways we had not envisaged last Christmas. Scientists have discovered new ways of working together to create vaccines, and many people have discovered the joy of community amid the isolation of lockdown. Whatever awaits us in 2021, we have glimpsed a different way and as Kingdom people we are invited to become history makers as we move forward, stepping into the fullness of creation as we listen to God around and within.

