

WEEKLY SERMON

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Keep Calm and Carry On

I've recently spent quite a bit of time 'inside' the NHS as a patient.

This was after an operation and some subsequent complications which led me to spend quite a bit of time in hospital.

I then found myself shuttling back and forth to see Doctors in surgeries and nurses at clinics for subsequent monitoring as my recovery continued.

The fortitude and kindness of those who work in the NHS just now, in almost intolerable conditions, is incredible to see.

Some of my fellow patients were understanding of the workloads of those looking after them.

But others most certainly were not, while one person in particular (who I had the misfortune to be lodged beside on a ward) was very, very grumpy indeed. We'll just leave that one there!

Why is it that some of our fellow travellers in life have so little patience with people who are simply doing their best to help them?

It seems that in today's world, where information is available all the time on our tablets and phones, some people don't want to wait for even a few minutes.

Response and satisfaction must be instant, or things can turn nasty very quickly.

The famous second world war poster 'Keep Calm and Carry On' should perhaps be given a new life for a new purpose in today's 24/7 world.

God teaches us in the Bible that: "Hot tempers cause arguments, but patience brings peace." (Proverbs chapter 15 v18)

Elsewhere in Proverbs it says: "Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly." (chapter 14 v29).

Often these days people are very quick to anger. This can upset and frustrate of course; but it can also be deeply upsetting for others.

As we dive ever deeper into this new year let's all resolve to 'cool it'; seeking a peaceful resolution to difficulties and being slow to anger. Especially in situations where others are doing their level best to help us.

That way we can all thrive and survive in what continue to be difficult times for everyone.

Ronnie Semley, Diocesan Communications Manager

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