

Onwards and upwards!

I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal ... (Philippians chapter 3 verses 12-14)

Some of the words from the New Testament Passage for this coming week. It is an excerpt from a wonderful letter written by the Apostle Paul, and posted to the church at Phillippi in what is now Greece. The sentiments of it have occurred to me a few times this week. There was an announcement about creating a National Care Service to provide support for people at home, free at the point of need. I couldn't help notice how the first thought of many in the world of politics and the media was to ask; 'how will we pay for it?'. A fair question but perhaps not the most important one. Some of the public who were interviewed had a more imaginative take on it. There was much more reflection as to how good it would be to have such a thing. I couldn't help thinking 'yes' we should have it, and that comes first. After deciding on a way forward it is amazing how often we can make things happen when working together.

Then I found myself sorting things at home, getting ready for a move. Going somewhere much smaller requires a radical clearing out. Memories abound as things are sold, given away or sadly thrown. I am steadied through this with the hope that God is there with us in our plans, and will take us forward. The same applies to those we have led and supported in the last nine years. I don't want to forget what lies behind, but I know what Paul is getting at. What lies ahead is all unwritten and provides new opportunity and fresh perspectives. Paul probably wrote the letter whilst under house arrest, for no more than sharing the faith in Jesus that he held dear. To remain so positive in that situation is inspiring.



Whatever lies in the near future is yet to be discovered. Two things hold as true for us as they did for Paul two hundred decades ago. That God's love abides with us constantly, and in his sure guidance we travel on in hope ... always.