



Wayne's Words

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Lying Fallow

One of our esteemed wardens has several times quoted to me a family saying from her heritage – 'Man proposes but God disposes'. It is a variation on Proverbs 16:9 NIV – 'In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.'

Having had our holiday plans interrupted - not to mention anticipated attendance at St Michael's Easter Sunday celebration of Jesus' resurrection – by the onset of Covid, I am reminded that for all my planning and intention, I am not in ultimate control of my life and my days.

It is a sobering realisation to accept that there are matters that can redirect our plans and that we then need to depend on others and to step aside for a while. It does of course provide opportunities for others to step up and grow in the process, and for us to experience others' care and concern. It can draw the human family together when unexpected needs arise.

There is also benefit in being laid aside for a time.

I found space to read and to catch up on needed sleep. There was extra phone time with the overseas daughter. An easing of deadlines and time pressure to just be for a while.

I'm reminded of the wisdom of God in commanding a rhythm of weekly rest for his people, and of a seventh year rest for the land. It has often been remarked that we are human beings, not human doings. We are not machines.

As with the weeks and seasons there are seasons of life to 'gracefully surrender the things of youth' as Desiderata says. These times are an invitation to draw closer to the Lord who we may have served for much of our lives – to be still and know that he is God. Relish the quiet times of inactivity and embrace the chance for purposeful action when it comes. Each is a gift of God – along with our very life breath. For all these times and seasons, we give God thanks.

The Lord be with you,

Wayne

