

## From the Vicar's desk

As we reflect this year on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War One and also marking the arrival of the Empire Windrush, we think on the various ways in which people have 'lost'. I am reminded of the importance of recognising the injustices and broken systems in our world and lamenting then.

Lamenting, however, does not mean that we are without hope, rather it is a way I believe of being honest with God. It would be a familiar position for Christians. There are so many of the Psalms that are psalms of lament. We notice that in the book of Lamentations God's people cry out to Him after their city has been destroyed by invaders.

So I think that lamenting is a legitimate response to the realities of suffering, and it engages God in the context of pain and trouble. Ultimately, lamenting can be hopeful. When we lament what is not right, we call ourselves and others to be active in seeking change. We call on our government and world leaders and those in positions of authority and power to also lament.

If we are prepared to lament then we can see and recognise a sense and place of new beginnings.

*"We can trust God to bring something new out of our seasons of lament"*

Every blessing, Father Carl.