

Dear Friends,

It has been suggested that I might write a letter each week while we're unable to meet together so that is what I am proposing to do. This will be posted on the church website but will also be posted out with the weekly service resources to those who are not on the internet. We already have a list of those to whom we are sending resources but if you know of others who should be included please let me know.

People can be very fickle, we change our minds a lot. A T shirt that looked wonderful in the shop suddenly looks different when we get it home. We change our minds frequently, that's really what fickleness means. I think fickle is a good word, but it isn't a good thing to be.

Being fickle is very human, crowds can often be very fickle. I remember reading about the Bristol crowd during the Civil War. When Sir William Waller, the Roundhead general occupied the town they came onto the streets and gave him a huge welcome. But less than a month later Prince Rupert occupied the town for the Royalists. The crowds were back on the streets again giving an equally enthusiastic welcome. It isn't only true in the past. In 1996 Leeds played Aston Villa in the League Cup final. When Howard Wilkinson led the Leeds players onto the pitch he was given a huge cheer. When the match ended and Leeds had lost 3-0 Howard Wilkinson was booed as loudly as he was cheered before.

What about that crowd who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem? They shouted and yelled their welcome, they were really enthusiastic, they were full of hosannas and glory to God. They really yelled their heads off and waved their palm branches around. A few days later they shouted something very different. Then they were all shouting "Crucify him, crucify him".

We sometimes think they must have been especially wicked people, to change their minds so quickly. But these people weren't that different from us inside, they weren't especially evil or wicked. They were just ordinary men and women, people just like us in many ways.

We can be fickle sometimes, we let our friends down, we change our minds, we break our promises. Sometimes we do the same with God, we let him down, we break our promises to him. However we know that though we sometimes let him down, God never lets us down.

With best wishes,

Mark