

The unseen

Week 2: Friday



Reading

Romans 8.22-26

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Reflection

C. S. Lewis reminds us that ‘God’s presence is not the same as the feeling of God’s presence. He may be doing most for us when we think He is doing least.’

Sometimes we’ll be able to see, hear, feel or understand what God is up to. And sometimes – oftentimes – we won’t.

This is where we have no option but to trust and hope that, just as Lewis suggests, God is working even when we’re completely unaware of it, even when we can’t see any evidence of it, even when our circumstances seem to be telling a different story.

It’s in those times that we need to rely on the knowledge that all that we see is not all that there is and decide to wait with patience, hope and trust.

Challenge

Let’s soak in C. S. Lewis’s encouragement and exercise some great and wild hope – asking for big things, big change, big shifts in circumstances.



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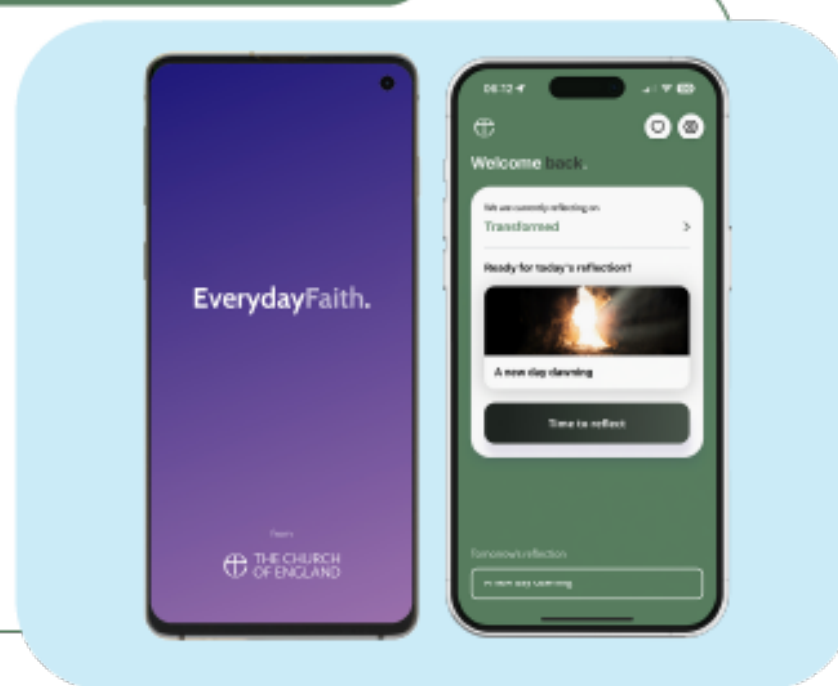
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The adults’ reflections have been written by Cathrine Fungai-Ngangira and Belle Tindall (both among the authors of *Wild Bright Hope: The Big Church Read Lent Book 2025* (SPCK)) and Victoria Mason.

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