

Change

I'm sure many of us sat and watched the FA Cup Final on Saturday, an event that traditionally marks the end of the football season, and a spectacle drawing a capacity crowd. This year it was very different though, with no supporters and an almost empty stadium. What was still there, however, was the traditional singing of 'Abide with me', all-be-it with a soloist and choir rather than a band.

One of the lines from that song has been in my thoughts in recent days, as I have returned to work after nearly seven weeks, that being the reference to 'change and decay I all around I see'. There had indeed been many changes at the Old Admiralty Building, with most of the building contractors having finished their work and the security team eventually transferring from G4S to the new company, OCS, a change that should have happened back in November!

The changes in practical terms have actually been relatively minor – with no evidence of decay, fortunately – the main difference being that we no longer have to worry about safety shoes, helmets and hi-viz jackets. No doubt more changes will come to pass in due course, but there is continuity in that Paul, our boss, has transferred to the new company as well so the transition should be fairly smooth.

Fortunately, we can thank God that he does not change, and is a constant source of strength and comfort, as we read in Psalm 119:159-160: “See how I love your instructions, Lord. Your love never changes, so save me! The heart of your law is truth, and all your righteous judgements are eternal.”

As the songwriter puts it:

“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

“Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great is Thy faithfulness!”
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaxWAMn2E-4>