

**Wonder Women! Then and Now- Vice President's Letter – December 2020/
January 2021**

Dear Sisters,

As we enter the season of Christmas and the New Year, I am reflecting on the past year and the beauty of so many wonderful bible stories; stories of how to embrace joy and happiness, overcoming anxiety and distress in crisis. In particular, the story of 'The Prodigal Son' came to mind. Why? In discussion with my family and friends about the Coronavirus, the parallels to 'The Prodigal Son' became apparent. **Luke 15:11-32 (the story of the Prodigal son)**

In that story, the son travelled and squandered all of his inheritance. He imagined that he would experience a better life away from his father's care. He decided to return to his father, you would expect that the father would scold and reject him, but his father was so joyful that the son had returned home that he had a big celebration for him. Meanwhile, the loyal older son had developed a resentment and bitterness for the younger brother because he felt that the younger brother didn't deserve the father's compassion.

Each character has a moral lesson that we can learn from.

The Prodigal son: we must be careful not to gamble with our lives because we could end up in troubling situations that may be difficult to escape. We must also think of how our actions impact others. Do not be afraid to look to the father (God) when you are in trouble.

The Older Brother: even though we may be following the rules, we are not better than anyone else; we must not develop a resentful and bitter heart towards those who may have chosen a different path to us.

The Father: God loves us all Regardless of our shortcomings. He will always be there for us in our time of need.

In This current crisis, we can see that there are two differing ideologies. Some people are choosing to abide by the guidelines, while others are choosing to live life for the moment. Let us Mirror the wisdom and love of the father.

To end on my reflection, while driving with my son, we passed a church that had massive queues outside for the food bank. My son was in shock! Which reminded me that in my many years as a head teacher, my pupils were encouraged to support many vulnerable people and the homeless through charities such as 'Shelter'. At harvest time, they took food to the care homes. At Christmas, the school choir sang for the elderly in the care homes. I never would have thought that despite all of the hard work that the community was doing, that we would sink further into crisis. Yes, the world has changed.

I have felt great peace in listening to 'The Singing Sisters of Arundel' Nun's Choir Album 'Light For the World', Number 1 in the classical charts. I pray it will bring you peace and joy if you are able to purchase this.

Much Love From,
Sr Audrey Kendall