**Wednesday 8th July**

Isaiah 32:14-17

The fortress will be abandoned, the noisy city deserted; citadel and watchtower will become a wasteland forever, the delight of donkeys, a pasture for flocks, till the Spirit is poured on us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest. The Lord's justice will dwell in the desert, his righteousness live in the fertile field. The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.

Well we’ve certainly seen noisy cities deserted in recent weeks! These verses from Isaiah show the life-giving Presence of the Holy Spirit. Wherever He goes, life follows, fruitfulness comes. Places which were previously desolate and barren once again hum with life. Lost causes are redeemed. Healthy things are enriched. Justice and righteousness are the good soil in which this life can flourish. Sometimes the idea of righteousness is rejected as unachievable (which of course it is until we are clothed with the righteousness of Jesus when we come to him in repentance and faith), or even undesirable. But we really need the righteousness of God. Our world is starved of peace, because it has rejected righteousness. The two go hand in hand.

*Lord, we thank you for your great love for us. Thank you that you have demonstrated your love in Jesus - that at the cross the great exchange was made: our sinfulness for your righteousness. Thank you that you that you have made peace between us. We pray Lord for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit from on high, bringing life to your people. As we carry your Presence into the world, we ask that your transforming power will be at work to bring righteousness, justice, new life and peace to a broken world. In Jesus Name. Amen*

