**Saturday 30th May**

Isaiah 35: 4, 6b-9

say to those with fearful hearts,  
    ‘Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
…Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
    and streams in the desert.  
The burning sand will become a pool,  
    the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
    grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there;  
    it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
    it will be for those who walk on that Way

Have you ever discovered something unexpectedly beautiful in an unlikely place? Like a robins next in the bonnet of your car, or a wildflower breaking through concrete? God is the expert in breaking out where we may least expect it! The picture that is often painted in the Old Testament is that of streams in the desert. It is so evocative to think of a dry, parched and dead land that comes to life as water is introduced. This actually happens very dramatically in some arid places where sudden rainfall produces a flush of glorious colour, and wildlife begins to return. This is the picture of what the Holy Spirit does in our lives. Water is used as a powerful symbol of the work of the Spirit in the Bible. He brings life where everything looks dead. As we think about the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, ask the Lord to flood the dry places of your life with His life-giving, spring of Living Water! A world-wide pandemic may seem like an unlikely place for God to be at work, but he specialises in those places!

*Father, please send your Holy Spirit upon your people afresh! We need your Living Water to flow through us, refreshing our souls, and bringing life. Flow out through us to others that they may see your goodness! Thank you that even in the midst of uncertainty and fear you are at work to bring new life and hope. Amen.*

