Letter from your Reader, Graham

 “When grey skies turn to blue” – Chris Rea

As I write this there is a dark cloud hovering over our villages. This comes in the form of the uncertainties that have come to light recently over the future of our local doctor’s surgery in Mevagissey. The whole situation has caused and will continue to cause much anxiety within our communities until it is resolved. This is of course is completely understandable because the surgery is an important element in most of our lives. We know of its significance to our well being and are grateful to the staff there for their medical skills and knowledge and the help they give to us. Our anxiety comes from the uncertainty of what we would do if it was not there, and also the working futures of those there who have kindly helped us in the past.

This dark cloud over our lives is symptomatic of life in general. The picture of grey skies and dark clouds blocking out the sunlight is often used in prose or song to describe the anxieties and problems we all face in our normal day to day living. If it is not the uncertainties over our local surgery, it could be the illness of a loved one, the pain of a dodgy knee, the volatility of a family relationship, financial concerns, issues at our work, even something small like the breakdown of a temperamental washing machine or car. Each dark cloud affects each person in different ways, dependent on circumstance and the different reactions of different personalities. However each cloud, leads to the grey skies that impact on the well being and demeanour of us all.

But we have all stood on a hillside, looking at the sky and seen how the breeze can blow the grey skies and dark clouds away to reveal the warmth and comfort and light from the sun. Sometimes it starts by just peeking through from behind the darkness, sometimes the wind is sufficient to blow the clouds far away almost in an instant. This is the message from Easter which tells us that even in the darkness there is light, even in death there is life, even when things seem so intolerable and difficult there is always the hope that comes from God, the hope that is God.

This month the church celebrates Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples, the same Spirit that enables that living God to live in each one of us, the same Spirit we can reach for to turn the grey skies into blue. It may not heal the family relationship or repair the broken car, but it will give us the strength to deal with it. It is unlikely that as you read this a solution has been found to the conundrum of the Mevagissey surgery. It is a complicated issue so we cannot say that everything will be fine because that would be trite. What we can believe is that by His Spirit God will blow the cloud away and that the grey skies will turn to blue. That will come through the decisions of NHS England and other authorities, through the advice of Patient Groups, through the concern of the general public but most of all through the compassion and care of this caring community towards those in need.

Graham Downes