***Bill’s Thoughts on***

***1 Peter 4. 12-14; 5. 6-11***

***Today I am not talking about the Gospel, but another of today’s readings that seems appropriate to our present time.***

**1 Peter** is a letter to the churches in Asia Minor, who were being persecuted by the Romans under Caesar Nero, who saw Christians as enemies. Peter, as the Rock, is not well known as there is no Gospel by him. Some say his letters are phrased in Greek that would have been beyond Peter’s knowledge! We know that there were scribes in all the markets, who would write letters for a fee, and that Greek was the only common language at the time. I do not write Greek, so I would have used a scribe for my communication.

**“Beloved do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you.”**

We are all suffering from the present lockdown, missing our friends and families. The phone is not the same as face-to-face, and you can’t hug over the phone. I have Judith to keep me sane, but many of us are alone. If you have any problems or issues and need to talk about them, please see the contacts list at the bottom of this Pews News, and know that Wiggy and myself will always be here for you.

**“Rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s suffering.”**

Jesus suffered and died for us without hesitation. He is with us now, and he shares our uncertainty about the future.

**“Discipline yourselves, keep alert.”**

This sounds familiar at this time. We need to resist the urge to ignore advice as the lockdown rules are relaxed. We have all seen crowds driving to the beach or tourist spots, and then being surprised when they realise too many others are doing the same thing.

**“And after you have suffered for a little while, God of all love will himself restore, support, strengthen and establish you.”**

Things will get better, we are already looking at ways to re-open our churches when allowed, whilst keeping everyone safe. Representatives from your church have interviewed a prospective applicant for our Rector vacancy over the internet. The interview went well with a lady applicant and more news will follow in the future.

**“To him be the power, forever and ever.”**

Jesus Christ and God the Father are with us and looking after us all. Amen.