

*View From Grabbist February 2026*

As I metaphorically scan the horizon from the top of Grabbist, I find myself asking: where are there signs of hope amid unfolding crises.

I see many little lights in our communities. The day-to-day care in our communities (thank you, you who offer hidden kindnesses - these are fragrant love offerings, expressing the very heart of the Divine!), the provision of food to those in need (thank you West Somerset Food Cupboard, and others), the voluntary and professional public services: thank you, Village Agents, Micro Providers, Care Workers, Nurses, Health Visitors, Teachers, Classroom Assistants ... I could go on. These are undoubtedly signs of hope.

But is there any hope in the wider world?

I find my sights resting upon the United States of America!

“What?” I hear you say. “A nation divided, where violence proliferates, might is right, truth is betrayed, millions live in fear and democracy itself is threatened?”

Yes - precisely there!



Why? Because quietly, something else is happening in the USA. I think it has been most embodied by a group of travelling Buddhist monks distributing flowers and blessings. Walking from Texas to Washington DC, beginning with just 19 monks and a dog, this mushroomed as growing crowds joined them and welcomed them in churches, community halls and parks - people of all faiths and none. By time you read this they will have reached Washington, and who knows how many will have joined them? The Walk for Peace has become iconic, capturing people's hearts. The monks echoed the hearts of so many American citizens who, without fanfare, labour for peace, love their neighbours, protect immigrants and threatened people of colour, reaching out across political divides and seeking reconciliation. The monks have embodied a response to violent division which does not fight fire with fire, but meets hatred with love, enmity with reconciliation, violence with peace. They speak silently across religious and cultural boundaries because that is what authentic spirituality does. As many have observed, they exhibit the true spirit of Jesus as many Christians (despite fundamentalist naysayers) openly recognise, celebrate and welcome with open arms.

Of course, things are still hanging in the balance, and there are many massive challenges ahead, including here in the UK. Precisely in such times, in Lent when we journey with Jesus, we can draw profound inspiration from the Walk for Peace. Sowing compassion and love requires of us that we transcend all political divisions and put our lot in with Kindness itself, to become Peace and make peace. For Jesus, who said *‘blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God’* this led to the cross, from which blossomed life itself - and the reconciliation of all. As we journey with Jesus this Lent, as we walk for peace like the monks, may our journey - though it leads us through great difficulty, to the cross itself - bring life and light to all who live on the Earth. Let us, each day, say with the monks: *‘today is going to be my peaceful day’*.



*Have a look at: <https://youtu.be/V1dN13Kicyk?si=KfBxEvd6jUZnz4Yj>.  
or [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walk\\_for\\_Peace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walk_for_Peace), or simply do a search for ‘Walk for Peace’*