Big pictures and small details . . .

“Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them – LORD, who remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow . . .”
Psalm 146:5-9a

Whilst travelling to a meeting a few months ago, I can genuinely say I saw something I have never seen before. Whilst certainly not as dramatic as a new star in the sky, it did make a lasting impression on me. As I drove out of a town, there was a man with a bucket and a mop . . . washing road signs.

So often our thoughts on roads and travel are ‘big picture’ thoughts. How do I get from A to B? Why is this road still covered with plastic cones when no-one is working on any of the road works? How can I avoid getting stuck in a 10 mile traffic jam? Are they really going to build that road across that area of outstanding natural beauty?

Here was someone focussed on the small details – cleaning road signs.

I am not a person who has an eye for small detail. Give me a Belbin self-perception analysis or a similar test and the ‘eye for detail’ score will be 0. ‘Big pictures’ I am comfortable with, but I struggle to see ‘small details’.

Therefore, I am more than thankful that I worship a God who can see both the ‘big picture’ and the ‘small detail’.

Together we worship a God who created the world yet knows each hair on our head. A God who is the maker of heaven and earth, yet lifts up the bowed down and sustains those in need. A God of big pictures and small details.

May we find confidence in the knowledge that God is more than capable of seeing the big picture and small details of the schools in which we work, the pupils we teach and the situations in which we find ourselves.