

Deacons Thoughts...

What a crazy world we're living in! So much fear and panic, shown most clearly in the empty shelves in the supermarkets. Talk of war... talk of mass death... advise, then instruction, to remain isolated from one another... Social distancing, even on the dog walk – you try telling the dog to be socially distant! It all seems quite bizarre, unreal, scary.

How do we do church? We're unable to gather and yet so many of us rely on that contact to help our faith and to support and be supported by our faith family.

How do we respond as Christians to this new world we're living in?

How do we support one another?

How do we support the vulnerable?

How do we support those who are suddenly without income?

How can we do anything whilst we're unable to meet?

It can all feel insurmountable. Useless. Futile.

What can we do?

My simple response is that we can all pray.

Pray in the morning

Pray in the evening

Pray in the night when sleep is evading you

Pray in the supermarkets

Pray in our gardens

Pray for our streets – visualise the places around your home / use a map or Google maps to virtually walk the streets, thinking about the people, businesses, struggles of health – physical and mental, isolation, finances, those for whom home is not a safe place, children no longer at school, parents...

Pray for our NHS

Pray for our government

Pray for our children and their parents

Pray for the elderly and vulnerable

Pray for those who are unable to get home

Pray for those who have to continue working

Pray for those who no longer have work

Pray for the worried

Pray for the disappointed

Pray for the tired
Pray for the ill
Pray for the carers
Pray for the lonely
Pray for the delivery drivers and shop workers
Pray for teachers and key workers
Pray for funeral directors and ministers of religion
Pray for those in isolation
Pray for those at the end of their means
Pray for those who are thinking only of themselves
Pray for those who have no faith
Pray for the church
Pray for the organisations that are seeking to help
Pray for your neighbours
Pray for other nations fighting this virus
Pray for places devastated by floods, fire, hurricane, earthquake or war
Pray for your family
Pray for your friends
Pray...
Pray...
Pray...
And listen to God.
What is he saying to you? How can you respond?
Who could you support with a phone call / card / letter

During these difficult times I will be available to talk by mobile: 07880 881964 or Skype to support and encourage you in your faith journey or if you just need someone to talk to. To book a time slot, either text 07880881964 or email helen.coleman@methodist.org.uk Please let me know who you are if you leave a message!

In all that is happening, I will be holding you all in my prayers.

God is with you in all things, the ups and the downs, the joys and the sorrows. He never leaves you nor forsakes you. He loves you with a passion that is second to none.

Take care

Shalom

Helen 19/03/20