

Keeping in Touch.....Easter 3

Thank you so much to all those who have sent contributions: Catherine will continue to write her weekly newsletters and devotions - this is just a little extra way of keeping in touch as a fellowship in this difficult period. Send anything to c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com by lunchtime on a Thursday. It can be funny, thoughtful , interesting—any thing you wish.

Firstly, some thoughts from Peter Ball.....

My life as somebody working at Westminster College has in a month changed beyond recognition. We have just started the new term and all the normal aspects of college life are in place. Daily morning prayers, start of term communion, students, lectures and classes, tutorials and all of the usual meetings both at college and across the country are happening. Just one major difference all of this is happening on line. We are on a sharp learning curve in our use of Zoom, Lifesize and other online tools to make what we do as accessible and user friendly as possible. I have never spent so much time in front of a screen and I am not sure as somebody who gains their energy by being with people I like it.

However we are finding that our worship times together and pastoral support are if anything even more important to us. The value of being part of a Christian community be it Westminster or St Ives Free Church is hugely significant and deeply meaningful at times like this and in some ways despite being physically apart is I believe drawing us even closer together and deepening our faith at the same time.

I have found myself reading Psalm 121 a lot lately as it reminds us where and in whom we can place our hope and our trust with certainty for both the present and our future.

Sending my love and prayers to you all

Peter

Thanks to modern technology and Catherine's Easter devotions many of us enjoyed our Easter Communion in the garden in glorious sunshine. This is Peter and Gill's Communion Table.



Fake-Away Time!

Jo Dyke is dreaming of being able to go to the beach and enjoy some fish and chips.... In the meantime she is pretending! As she says she has the ingredients and the gravel!



Meanwhile, other world issues don't disappear.....

An article on Global Debt sent in by Mary Cox.



The good news is that **last week G20 governments committed to suspend \$12 billion of debt payments for 77 countries** in the global south for the rest of 2020. This decision will give these countries vital room for manoeuvre as they deal with the ongoing threat of the pandemic.

It's a breakthrough in our campaign, and it couldn't have been achieved without the massive mobilisation from people like you in the UK, working with Jubilee Debt Campaign and more than 200 organisations around the world.

But there is still a long way to go. Last week's deal only covers debt payments owed to (some) individual lender countries. It doesn't include the further \$12.4 billion of debt payments due to global institutions like the IMF and World Bank in 2020. And it doesn't include the \$10.1 billion of debt payments due to private lenders like banks and hedge funds in the rest of 2020. This money is still due to flow out from countries fighting the devastating Covid-19 pandemic over the course of this year.

So congratulations on contributing to this breakthrough for the campaign. Powerful people are no longer discussing if debts are a problem in the coronavirus crisis, but how to deal with that problem. That is a result of our combined efforts.

But we will need to keep up the pressure in the coming weeks and months.

When asked what she was missing most at present, Josie Viles sent in the following:

We miss visits from our children and grandchildren. We always had a list of tasks for the grandchildren, like changing lightbulbs and bits of DIY. Now we keep in touch on the phone. I miss my hair dressers home visits - just as well no one can see me as I look messy. I've had a go at cutting David's hair - he complains that it's lop sided so I'm not letting him cut mine!

Prayers and best wishes to all at the church.

Josie Viles

Some snippets:

For reasons of copyright some things can't be printed in full but you might want to "Google" on them.

Freda suggested a very funny poem by Pam Ayres about coronavirus.

Babs suggested this link for crafting ideas

<https://www.countryfile.com/how-to/crafts/>

The Prophet by Kahill Gibran has a very interesting section on Time.

On 8th May we will be marking VE Day—though not in the way originally planned! Some of you, I'm sure, have memories of the day. We would love to hear them. Please send them to me—with photos if possible so we can share together.

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And finally something Char received from her daughter-in-law:

History repeats itself. Came across this poem written in 1869, reprinted during 1919 Pandemic.

This is Timeless....

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.



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