

April 2020

Pastoral Letter

At this difficult time, let's be honest, we're all feeling scared. Life as we know it has changed, hopefully not for too long, in the midst of this huge crisis, this 'enemy' as Boris Johnston put it, but the question I want to ask is, 'Are we going to let it defeat us?' We've been told on TV that we can beat it, if we follow all the given guidelines and if we pull together.

This attitude follows what the Bible teaches us about being united in love, as one body, each looking out for the other, not putting self first. So, how can this work in practical terms, when we're not even allowed to meet each other? Modern technology helps some of us keep in touch and I do hope you at least have a working telephone connection and will call someone if you're feeling lonely. My number is 291390 if Jo or I can be a friendly listening ear. Or, perhaps you are feeling strong enough yourself to give an isolated neighbour a call? If you can do your own shopping, perhaps you'll think about just buying what you need, not too much, so there is enough left on the shelves for others. Perhaps you may consider dropping off some supplies at the door of a more vulnerable neighbour who can't get out.

The Bible tells us repeatedly not to be afraid, not to worry and at such a time as this it's a big challenge to trust those words, but we must try, taking each day as it comes, looking for something good in each moment, and being ready to respond in love to whatever needs arise.

“We depend on the Lord alone to save us.
Only he can help us, protecting us like a shield.
In him our hearts rejoice,
For we are trusting in his holy name.
Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord,
For our hope is in you alone.”

from Psalm 33

I'm sorry to say that there will be no Sunday Church Services until further notice.

Adam