



# Faith at Home

Growing Faith | Week 10 | 1 June 2020

## Thought for the week

**UNCERTAIN** By Nathan Shepherd of Vision

So the last few months have been pretty weird. If I could sum it up in one word, it would be uncertain. But as we begin a brand new month, full of possibilities, I wanted to write down 3 things you can be certain about...

### You got skills.

You can be certain that you've got skills. Skills you know about, and skills you've not discovered yet. Skills that come naturally, and skills you can only develop with practise and hard work. Skills you can learn at school, and skills that you can't take an exam in. No-one's good at everything. But everyone's good at something. If you're not sure what your skills are, don't worry. Ask yourself: "what do I enjoy doing?" That's a good place to start.

### The world needs your skills.

If you're a Christian, you might hear people say: "Serve God with your skills." But how? Lead worship at church? Go on mission to another country in the summer holidays? These can be great ways to serve God with your skills. I work for a Christian charity and I love it... but these are NOT the only options! Far from it. The Bible says whatever we do, we should do it to the best of our ability, as if we're doing it for God. (Colossians 3:23).

If you've started to think about what you'll do when you're older, you can be certain of this: the world needs Christians working in offices, hospitals, schools, banks, shops... every workplace you can think of. The world needs Christians who are coders, performers, biologists, cleaners, influencers, writers, politicians, receptionists, designers, stylists... every job you can think of.

Why? Because when we choose to follow Jesus, he helps us work with integrity: that means doing the right thing, even when no-one's looking. He helps us work with courage: speaking out for what's right, even when it's unpopular. He helps us work with love: being kind and forgiving others, just as we'd like to be treated. Following Jesus unlocks a whole other level for our skills. A person who is brilliant at their job AND follows Jesus really can make a big impact on the world around them.

### The world needs you.

But the world doesn't just need your skills. The world needs you.

Specifically, uniquely, you. Not just in the future, but now. You can be certain that when God designed you, he planned for you to be alive right now, at the exact age you are today. You don't have to wait until you're older to use your skills for him. You can choose, right now in this very moment, to follow Jesus: to ask him to help you live with integrity, courage, and love. And you can choose right now to do the things you're good at to help others. What are you good at? What do you enjoy doing? How can you use your skills today to help others?

## Teenager's Tip

**Look at the Birds of the Air** By Amy Lees from Year 13



In the current circumstances, lots of us seem to have a bit more time on our hands. It has been encouraging to see people using their extra freedom to explore the areas around them, whether that is a local park, a new part of town, or nearby nature trails. I'm fortunate enough to live close to an area of open hills and woodlands, which I have tried to take advantage of over the past few months.

On one of my most recent evening walks, I took a moment to sit and watch the sun fall below the hills in the distance. It was a beautiful sight, but I was mostly struck by the sound of the birds singing in the shrubs nearby. It reminded me of Matthew 6:26-27: "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

In our lives, it can sometimes feel as if uncertainty lurks around every corner. At this time, more than ever, we are forced to confront the reality that the structures and routines which provide us with a sense of security can fall away at any moment, and when that happens, we can feel lost, afraid, and even disillusioned.

However, the Bible reminds us that we ultimately have nothing to fear, because we are of great value to God. Even in times of hardship, we can trust that we will be provided for, which allows us to find a sense of peace which transcends the ups and downs of life. Nonetheless, our emotions can feel overwhelming. Therefore, it is important that we take the time to identify what is making us feel afraid, and use this sense of awareness to help us navigate the uncertain road which lies before us. I've found that writing down my thoughts regularly gives me a better sense of awareness, but others may find that expressing themselves through talking to others is more useful.

Finally, we are encouraged to give all of our worries to God in prayer. When our struggles feel meaningless, it is difficult to try and make sense of them. Through prayer, we can find comfort, peace and clarity when it is challenging to find it on our own. Philippians 4:6-7 reminds us: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ."



## Sunday 7pm School Song

Why not sing this as we light our candles together!

HOLY SPIRIT  
LIVING BREATH OF GOD  
KEITH AND KRISTYN GETTY

## Prayer for the Week

By Mrs Ogden:

This is a prayer that I have prayed many times, particularly when things are "tough". It reminds me that God is control and what will be, will be. Instead of worrying about the future and hoping for lockdown to end, try to enjoy the present moment and taking some time to slow down. Appreciate the simple things in life and all that is good. I have been spending hours in the garden and walking around the hills over the last few weeks (I've even been growing my own veg!) Notice the sound of the birds, all the beautiful colours around you and the wonder of creation. All is not bad, take time to be still, perhaps say these words over and over throughout the day, and remember:

All shall be well,  
And all shall be well,  
And all manner of things shall be well

(Mother Julian of Norwich)

### Pentecost!

If you missed the service led by our three Bishops,  
please take a look – so encouraging!



We miss you!



A message from all of the  
teachers.

**"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."**

1 John 4:12

### Song of the Week



A song that reminds us just how  
much our Father cares.

## Church Support

Here are links to some alternative services and ways to contact some of our School Chaplains or their Churches. You are not alone!

**VISION: Vision Live Stream** for 11-18s runs every Friday night from 7:30pm. Games, lockdown challenges and chance to think about God + life + faith. Find out more [here](#).

**Revd Ian Enticott:** Accrington St. James and St. Paul, find their YouTube Channel [here](#).

**Revd Hugh Scriven:** Huncoat St. John's and Augustine's is happy to send news, some written prayers and Bible reflections each week to anyone upon request. Please email him [here](#) or on their YouTube channel [here](#).

**Revd Mark Pickett:** Clitheroe St. James, Virtual Prayer Space and weekly online services can be found [here](#).

**Father Chris Holden:** Rishton St Peter's and St Paul's is happy for you to get in touch with him use this [email](#).

**Pastor Matthew Clay:** Great Harwood Christian Fellowship, find their channel [here](#).

**Rev Toby Webber:** Clayton All Saints have short family friendly times of worship at 10:45am each Sunday followed by a fuller service at 11am, and Friday Praise each Friday at 6:30pm. Night prayer daily at 9:30pm and other times as announced. Visit their [Facebook Page](#) for more info.

**Father Andy Froud:** Clitheroe St Mary Magdalene, prayers and worship online can be found [here](#).

**A Church Near You:** A website to help you find out what is going on in a Church local to you. Follow this [link](#).

Further links will be provided in future weekly bulletins.



Queens Road West  
Accrington  
Lancashire  
BB5 4AY

01254 232 992  
01254 355 215  
[c.pountain@st-christophers.org](mailto:c.pountain@st-christophers.org)  
[www.st-christophers.org](http://www.st-christophers.org)

