



# Faith at Home

Growing Faith | Week 14 | 29 June 2020

## Thought for the week

### A Solid Foundation

Written by Matthew Clay - Senior Pastor of Great Harwood Christian Fellowship:

What were your experiences when lockdown was announced?

For most people, it was all very traumatic because everybody seemed to lose something. I know many of you were getting ready for exams and suddenly you lost that goal that you had been working towards. For others, you were no longer able to meet up with your friends, your wider family, go to the shops or visit McDonalds. This sudden stop put enormous pressure on us all, but gradually we adapted to the new normal and we entered those months where life was put on hold.

Now we are approaching a new phase. As the restrictions are lifted so our safe routine is being altered. These changes where no-one really knows what we are and are not allowed to do is causing a real mix of emotions, especially uncertainty and anxiety.

These are difficult and trying times for us all. In these changing times, we need a solid foundation.

In the Bible, we read about a time that Jesus told people how they can find certainty, security and a solid foundation that would carry them through any storm or difficulty in life.

This is found in the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders in Matthew 7:24-27. This parable teaches us that everyone needs a foundation in life. Many people try and make a foundation themselves; they trust their own abilities and plan out their life.

Covid 19 has shown that any foundation built on our own strength is just sand. Many of us have just discovered that life can suddenly change and we cannot do anything about it. This means, we need that solid foundation which is only found when we trust in Jesus and follow His teachings.

Christianity is never a crutch for the weak, but rather recognition of what the world is really like. God has made this world; it belongs to Him and like it or not, God is in charge. When we deny this, when we think we are in control of everything, we are just building on the sand and sometimes, God sends a storm to encourage people to turn back to Him.

This is where trusting In Jesus as our Lord and Saviour provides us with the foundation that we need.

Knowing that God is in control and knowing that He loves all those who trust and follow Jesus gives us stability even when the very worst happens. We know that God will give us the strength to get through every situation, all we have to do is be patient and wait.

As we start to emerge, slowly and carefully from lockdown, as anxiety grows because of all the changes that we are going through, my prayer is that God will help all the staff and students at St. Christopher's to adapt to the new situation and that many people will make sure that their relationship with Jesus is the foundation that they stand on.



**A message from Matthew Clay**  
Please click [here](#) to view the video.



### Teenager's Tip Family Time

By Honey Bradshaw from Year 10

While we cannot escape our family in our current situation, it's still a good idea to spend quality time with them. Face to face contact is still at a minimum and we still have to adhere to social distancing rules even then. Being in the same house isn't the same as actually interacting with them.

Perhaps have a few movie nights, each member of your family can take turns choosing, so there aren't as many arguments as usual. The film also serves as a talking point for your family, as if you don't know what to talk about or have exhausted talking points at this stage, commentary could be offered on the film or it could be enjoyed in companionable silence. Any film could be used, maybe one you've been meaning to watch for a while, or simply a family favourite. Although, maybe these days, a few episodes of TV on Netflix may be better.

Of course, there's no need to watch a film to spend time with family, any activity will do. Participating in a board game (but we all know how monopoly ends up) or going on a walk and taking advantage of the weather.

The situation we are in is entirely new, but perhaps we can take advantage of the situation and develop a deeper relationship with family.

'Bear with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgive each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.' - Colossians 3:13

### Sunday 7pm School Song

Why not sing this as we light  
our candles together!



## Poem for the Week

By Mrs Nicola Saporita-Clark – Headteacher at All Saints' Primary School:

For the past 4 years I have been the Headteacher at All Saints' Primary School, one of the main feeder schools for St Christopher's. I absolutely love my job and feel so very privileged to play a part in the journey and education of children. At the moment, we are working with our year 6 children around transition to St Christopher's, or whichever high school they will be attending from September. It is such an important time and one I am sure many of you remember well. For lots of our children, this is a very exciting time, for others a difficult time. I am sure that many of you who are this year moving on from High School to new ventures feel the same. Leaving the security of either primary or secondary school, or even a sixth form centre, somewhere you will have become familiar with, know so well and feel comfortable within, can feel daunting; exciting but daunting! It is much the same throughout life when there is change; and change is an inevitable part of life. Change brings about new opportunities, which can be so very positive, but apprehension where there is change is to always be expected.

One of my very favourite poems, which reminds us all about how there is always at least one constant in our lives, no matter what changes we are experiencing, or how challenging the changes we face may be, is the poem entitled 'Footprints', written by Mary Stevenson in 1936. In times of challenge, and indeed change, it is always lovely to remember that God is always there for us, to support us through any change or challenge we may encounter.

## FOOTPRINTS

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

## Song of the Week



**"How precious to me are your thoughts, God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you."**

Psalm 139: 17-2

## 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](#).

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

**Rev'd 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](#).

**Rev'd 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](#) and the church is now open for private prayer - 9am to 6pm daily

**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.



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