



Faith at Home

Growing Faith | Week 16 | 13 July 2020

Thought for the week

God's love – practical, dependable, generous, empowering, forgiving and unconditional.

Written by our Headmaster, Mr Richard Jones:

It is reassuring to know that the Church of England has a vision(!), one that is summed up in a phrase from John's gospel where we are invited to seek 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). It is now virtually impossible to enter a Church school without seeing these words plastered on a wall or a noticeboard, ticking the box that says: do you have a distinctively Christian ethos? And yet all too often, given our normally predictable existence of work, eat, sleep, we can be in danger of accepting an ethos which is laminated and not lived.

Recent months have however pulled us up short. A realisation for many that prayer is missing from daily routines and for others an increasingly wide eyed appreciation of what life actually is. Christians believe there is something special about human beings. People are not like anything else in the entire universe. The Bible says that people are made 'in the image of God' (Genesis 1:27). We share something of his nature: the ability to forgive; the desire for justice; an understanding of good and evil. Life is a fragile God-given gift and one where uncertainty and fear should compel us to grasp it and live it, to the full.

Recent months have also put our own vision under the microscope. In these unprecedented times all connected with St Christopher's have had to make a whole series of instinctive decisions and it is through these actions, often when we are under greatest pressure, that we reveal our virtues. As a School we have had to reimagine education from scratch and organise learning in new ways, whilst maintaining levels of pastoral care which help to sustain pupils as they face new challenges and experience grief and fear, often for the first time.

In all of this it is my hope that the lesson learnt is that life in all its fullness is not about the completed work sheet or assignment, or even about the individual or team but rather by an acknowledgement of God's love – practical, dependable, generous, empowering, forgiving and unconditional.

As we prepare for the start of a new school year, together at last as a school community, let us give thanks and look forward. Let us let go of other scripts or narratives – those of fear or the sense that we are not good enough and do not fully belong – and look instead to God's love and the way in which it leads us to 'life in all its fullness'.

With thanks to work of Mr Pountain (Director of Spirituality) for editing and compiling all sixteen edition of this weekly Faith at Home bulletin.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Teenager's Tip

Do. Not. Worry.

By Jenna Gillatt from Year 10

Unfortunately, now more than ever, the majority of the country seems to be worrying as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. It is clear that we are living in very unprecedented times which automatically raises anxiety, uncertainty and panic in everybody.

Specifically, as young people, our mental health could be effected negatively. The world around us has changed massively, everybody has been trapped in lockdown for protection against the virus and teenagers have been left worrying about friends, family, education and the future.

For help and guidance, the Bible would be the best place to turn. It is one of Jesus's shortest commands when preaching.

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." (Matthew 6:34)

"Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 13:11)

Jesus mentions to not worry many times in his time teaching. He makes sure that his followers have a clear understanding that God will ultimately save and protect them and therefore, humans don't have to worry.

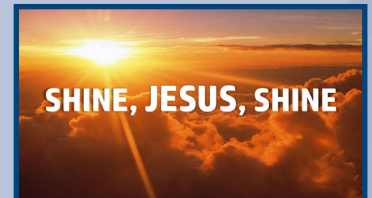
I wish to echo this and make my message "do not worry". As individuals, we all have unique situations which may cause us worry, I urge you to try and tackle this by using different strategies. Do whatever makes you feel comfortable and calm, spend time with someone you love or doing something you love and the time will pass.

Worrying ultimately changes nothing and what's for you will certainly not pass you. God has a plan.



Sunday 7pm School Song

Why not sing this as we light
our candles together!



Poem for the Week

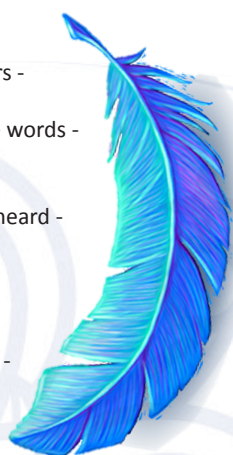
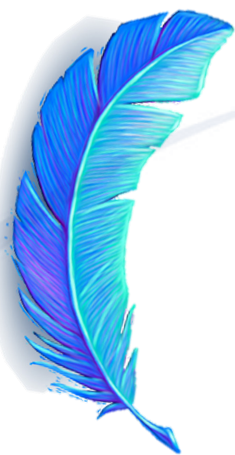
By Mrs Nina Kewin:

'Hope' is the Thing with Feathers' by Emily Dickinson

'Hope' is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.



As an English teacher, I find a lot of wonder and truth in the poetry of Emily Dickinson. "Hope' is the thing with Feathers' is an inspirational poem, especially now. The idea that hope is something familiar that is 'perched' within us gives us the knowledge that we all have a consistent inner strength that can comfort and encourage us in times of need.

Hope, like poetry, is timeless: Emily Dickinson used her poetry to articulate this concept over 150 years ago. Her words carry so much poignancy and power in our unfamiliar world and the poem helps us see that hope can shield us in difficult and challenging circumstances. Hope keeps singing and gives us assurance that we will weather the storm.

Whether we define the feeling today as optimism, expectancy or desire – what we can draw upon is that with God, our hope carries certainty and is based on His promises. Hope is what we have been blessed with. It never stops – 'at all'.

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

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

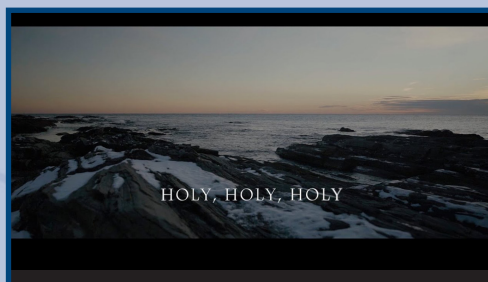
Rev Toby Webber: Clayton All Saints have short family friendly times of worship at 10:45am each Sunday followed by a fuller service at 11am, and Friday Praise each Friday at 6:30pm. Night prayer daily at 9:30pm and other times as announced. Visit their [Facebook Page](#) for more info.

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.


Song of the Week







"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Colossians 2:2-3



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