



Faith at Home

Growing Faith | Week 4 | 20 April 2020

Thought for the week

Friendship by Bishop Philip

I wonder what you are missing most in this very odd time of lockdown? For me it's people. I thrive on the company of others and usually I spend my life going from one person to another. Phone calls, Zoom, Skype and so on are all well and good, but they don't make up for physically being with another person.

I suspect a lot of you are feeling the same right now. There may be the odd good thing to lockdown – lie-ins, more relaxed routines, time with family and so on. But I bet loads of you are massively missing your friends. All those friendship groups that are so important have suddenly been blown apart. Of course you can text and WhatsApp and Facetime them. But it's not the same.

We are keeping the season of Easter just at the moment, and it is showing me again and again how Jesus knew himself everything that we experience. In the moments running up to the cross, his friendship group also suddenly split up. Those precious relationships he had worked so hard to build collapsed. Judas betrayed. Peter denied. The others ran away.

But in the appearances that Jesus makes after he has risen again, bit by bit he sticks the friendship group back together again. One powerful example of that is Peter. Remember those three denials just before the crucifixion when Peter said he didn't even know Jesus? Well after he had risen Jesus appeared to Peter on the beach. Three times he asks the same question. Do you love me? Do you love me? Do you love me? One question for each denial. And when Peter replies three times – yes Lord you know I love you - he is given a task. Feed my sheep. So Peter's relationships with Jesus is restored. But in a different way. It's now much richer, much deeper, much more purposeful. Because the friendship was for a time disturbed, it is now much, much stronger.

Well I hope that the same can be true for your friendships as well. For a time you may be split up, peering at little images of each other on a screen, unable to enjoy properly being together. That's probably driving you mad, and it's set to go on for a few weeks yet. But sometimes it's only when we lose something that we realise quite how precious it is to us. When you are able to see your friends again properly, mix with them and go out together, I suspect those friendships will be even richer and more purposeful than before, just like it was with Jesus and Peter.

And I also hope that the same happens in your friendship with Jesus. Again for a while you may feel separated from Him. Churches are closed. There's no school which means your normal pattern of worship is lost. Of course we can still pray and still read our Bibles, and it is really important to do those things. But above all I hope that when these times of social isolation come to an end, you can discover anew just how precious it is to be friends with Jesus, and just how much he can change your life and give you purpose.

So it's a hard time to be friends – with each other or with Jesus. But be patient, use this time well, and perhaps at the end you'll discover what friendship is really all about.



Please click here to view the video.

Sunday 7pm School Song

This week we have a real blessing! Former pupil Katie Ritson performed 'He Will Hold Fast' beautifully on Radio Four on the 19th April.

Why not sing along with her as we light our candles together!



Twenties Tip

Thoughts from Dan Barnes, a past Worship Co-ordinator at our school.

This is a difficult time for us all and it's ok if you're struggling. Here are a couple of Bible verses that I find helpful:

"There may be pain in the night, but joy comes in the morning"
(Psalm 30:5)

When you're feeling down, try to remember what King David wrote. This will pass and the good times will return. Although it can sometimes feel a long way away, there is light at the end of the tunnel. There is hope.

"For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"
(Jeremiah 29:11)

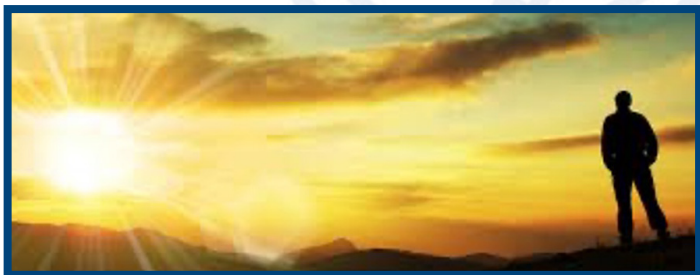
It's normal to feel anxious right now; our daily routines have changed completely and there are so many unknowns. But it's important to remember that God's still in control. He's bigger than all the problems we face in life. He's got this!

Poem for the Week

Written by a school parent, Mrs Sarah Ellison:

New Beginnings

New beginnings at Eastertide,
New beginnings each day, each hour.
New beginnings for ourselves,
New beginnings for others.
A time to forgive, a time to be kind,
A time to reflect, to open our mind.
A time to love, a time to pray,
A time to listen, a time to say.
New beginnings at Eastertide,
New beginnings each day, each hour.



**“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow,
for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each
day has enough trouble of its own.”**

Matthew 6:34

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!

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](#).

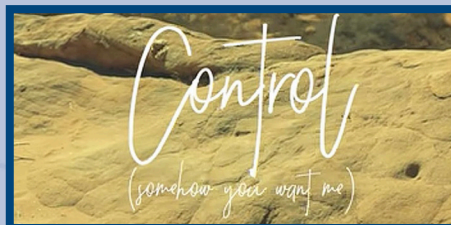
Rev Toby Webber: Clayton All Saints have short family friendly times of worship at 10:45am each Sunday followed by a fuller service at 11am, and Friday Praise each Friday at 6:30pm. Night prayer daily at 9:30pm and other times as announced. Visit their [Facebook Page](#) for more info.

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.

Song of the Week



Control

When everything seems out of our control, it's good to spend time with the One who is.

Teenager's Thought

By Joseph Collins, Year 9 Pupil

Hi, I'm Joe Collins, a worship co-ordinator in Year 9. This week as we've been enjoying the sunshine our family has been thinking about all you pupils whose parents are key workers. It must be difficult for you to be in school during the Easter break and waking up early every day. You should all be proud that your parents are the ones making an enormous effort to keep the country running during this awful time. We know that you must worry for your parents, especially those whose parents are doctors or nurses. Please know that we think about you all on a daily basis and hopefully by September we will all return to school.

Rock Hunt

Some of the rock hunt artwork created by Maya Smith, Year 7 Pupil to look out for!



Queens Road West
Accrington
Lancashire
BB5 4AY

01254 232 992
01254 355 215
c.pountain@st-christophers.org
www.st-christophers.org

