



Faith at Home

Growing Faith | Week 6 | 4 May 2020

Thought for the week

Where is God in all of this?

By Curate Ian Sarginson, St James Clitheroe

We are currently living in a significant time. However the current situation may be affecting you (and people will be experiencing it very differently) it is significant for each and every one of us.

This pandemic and this period of time will be talked about for years to come. People may well study it in history and it will no doubt be used to form policies and procedures for governments and the medical professions for years to come.

It will change many things for society as a whole moving forward and we are all currently living within it. In the same way that I asked my grandparents and other older people that I knew about their memories of the war, in years to come people will ask you and me, what it was like to live in these days.

In the midst of this time of crisis, it could be easy for us to become overwhelmed at how insignificant we are. The whole planet has had to change how it lives, whole economies face challenges, many families will remember this period for the worst of reasons, all due to a virus that can't be seen. It could be easy to feel irrelevant, helpless and insignificant.

I want to tell you that it simply isn't the case. You have value, you matter, you can make a difference.

However you are feeling right now - YOU ARE SIGNIFICANT. You have been uniquely created and whether you realise it or not, you impact the world around you. God has created you with greatness within you! You exist in a generation that is more equipped to deal with this situation than any that has gone before.

The technology that we have available to us, makes it easier for each of us to spread messages of kindness, hope and love. In this time of challenge, fear and frustration for so many, a time of huge diversion from much of that which we consider 'normal', I urge you to see the opportunities that lie within it.

You have been created by God with the capacity to make a difference, to have an influence, to change the world. Where will you start? Maybe with your friends that you know are struggling? Maybe with the vulnerable on your street? Maybe with members of your own family? In between our work, games and Tik-Tok videos, let us all seek to do some good.

Let each one of us make sure that in the future when we are asked about what it was like in 2020, that we all have some good stories about the difference that we made.



[Please click here to view the video.](#)

Song of the Week



[Look at what happens when God's Church unites!](#)

Sunday 7pm School Song

Why not sing this as we light our candles together!



Teenager's Tip

We Are Not Alone

Hannah Rostron, 6th form worship co-ordinator.

1 Peter 4:12-13

In trying times such as these, it's very easy to feel disconnected from God and our Church families. We can no longer meet to praise, learn and pray together during the week, and for many people, not having the usual support system will feel isolating.

We are not alone, though, and never will be. In the Bible, Peter assures us to not be surprised by suffering because of our faith. Our suffering is something Peter tells us to rejoice in, as it is a signpost towards God and a sign that we are blessed by his Holy Spirit.

So, even though our lives are a little bit unusual for the time being, remember to keep trusting. Go for daily walks and look around at the nature surrounding you. When we stop to take in the beautiful world around us, it can help us feel less isolated. God is reflected in the beauty of his creations and he is always there with us.

I hope you all have a great week.



Poem for the Week

Chosen by Mrs Pollock who explains:

"The King of love my shepherd is," is one of my favourite hymns. With its words based around Psalm 23 it speaks to me in so many ways, and I have found myself praying the words on many different occasions. On reflection, there have been many times in my life when I have felt the need to draw closer to God, to trust in him and his plan for me. Therefore, I feel it would be right and fitting for our community at this time.

The King of Love my shepherd is

Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)

The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His,
And He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me,
And on His shoulder gently laid,
And home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy Cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth.

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever.

**"I took you from the ends of the earth,
from its farthest corners I called you.
I said, 'You are my servant';
I have chosen you and have not rejected you.
So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."**

Isaiah 41:9-10

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.

Oak National Academy Assemblies

From Thursday 30th April and every subsequent Thursday, Oak National Academy in partnership with the Church of England are hosting an online assembly.

Last week's was delivered by the Archbishop of Canterbury where he spoke about hope.

Feel free to watch the following messages each Thursday morning using the link below.



Watch these verses of encouragement:



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