

Richard's Ramble 23rd April 2020



For the moment at least, lockdown is here to stay, although it is encouraging to hear news of a possible decline in deaths through the Coronavirus, and the beginning of trials of a possible vaccine.

It is important not to allow ourselves to be drawn into speculation about the future, nor to allow ourselves to be disgruntled about the response of the government or the NHS. This is a uniquely challenging situation that no one could have possibly foreseen, and we should be thrilled to live in an age where so much healthcare is available. We can also give God great thanks for the low level of victims so far, and the high number of hospital beds that have been made available and remain unfilled. This is a time of considerable personal sacrifice not just for NHS and other key workers and their families, but also for many NHS patients who are further back in the queue than they would have been otherwise.

We, however, have the words of eternal life. These are words that people always need to hear, but some may feel a greater need to hear them now, such as: *“God is our refuge and our strength an ever-present help in times of trouble”*, and *“Come to me all you who labour and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest”*, *“Cast all your care on Him for He cares for you”*, and perhaps even try to commit to memory Proverbs 3:5-7:

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
In all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight.
Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.
This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.”*

When we feel weak, or frustrated, or depressed, or experience any other negative emotions, God is there for us, for our support and our blessing, and not only to forgive us and to help us to forgive others, but also to help us forgive ourselves.

Could we all please pray for those who could or should be asking for pastoral or spiritual support, but this is not something they have in mind, or are getting round to. People may be unaware that we could visit them pastorally via Zoom or Skype and help them with issues that they are facing. Others would benefit from finding our

services online and we will want to pray that they are prompted to do so.

I hope people have been able to access the services that the clergy team have been putting on Facebook and YouTube. You can also find messages from myself – I post up one on Wednesday or Thursday every week - via the Tardebigge Facebook page, and Café Church services via the Café Church Tardebigge YouTube channel.

The weekly timetable is:

- **Tardebigge Café Church** is live on Zoom at 9.30am Sundays (<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8025844896> - PASSWORD 388617) and is available on YouTube later in the morning:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepafX9lQwOsG8ZC60NghGA>
- **The main Holy Trinity Team Service** is available at 10.30am on the Holy Trinity YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsh_dWJnm8n82G2NwBzrdcw
- **A Holy Trinity Team All Age service** is available at 4.00pm
- **Morning Prayer** Monday – Saturday. This is usually posted by 9.00am.
- **Evening Prayer** Monday – Thursday. This is usually posted at 3.30pm.

I think that now we have got into the habit of posting web material we will probably do so afterwards; with so many people unavailable, or away, or ill on a Sunday morning at some point in the year being able to post services that bring Jesus' love, hope and inspire faith, is a practice we will want to retain in some form after the lockdown is over and we can all go back to our church building for services.

Finally, here is a challenge. If you have a garden, why not send me some pictures? They must be of your own garden taken after April 12th, and no more than 6 per garden, although you can send me just one if you like. I will publish the best online. Send them by email to trhtredditch@gmail.com.

The Lord bless you with his love, his peace, his joy and may all the fruits of the Spirit well up within you and be seen in your life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard", written in a cursive style.