



RESOURCING OURSELVES OTHERS

Continuing Ministerial Development of the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

Issue 6. 29th April 2020

Online Clergy Reflection Group



On 29th April **The Rev'd Carol Latimer**, All Souls Group will help us think about Ecumenical Possibilities post-Covid.

Meetings are held on Zoom from 1030-1130 and open to all clergy in the diocese. Ask for a zoom invitation cmdcordinator@gmail.com

Contemporary Ikon of Hagia Koinonia by a monk of Bose depicting Galatians 6.2 'Bear one another's burdens'. An apt icon for these times although wouldn't it be great if someone were to write a gender inclusive version?



Around the Diocese



Lis Burke, Lay Reader, ABC Group of Churches writes: 'In the last few weeks I've noticed a real change in the posts I see on Facebook, and I don't just mean the sharing of information and live-streaming of worship on church pages. Friends and many other individuals are all starting to focus more on what is good in the world around them rather than spreading negativity. Some of us are joining in too. Whether or not God is named, we are all reaching out to our online communities, sharing and demonstrating God's love to God's world. Maybe this is a sign of new life at Easter.'

Ian Scott, Lay Reader, St Margaret's, Leven sent in this poem written some years ago by Hazel Collins about an empty church.

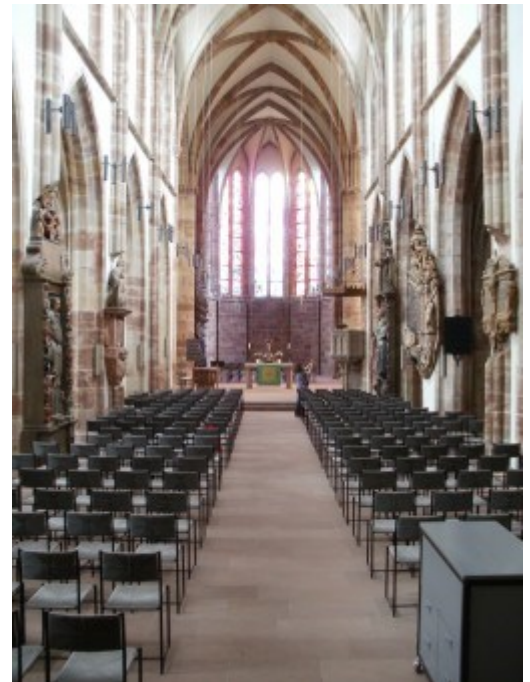
Silent, solid, in the shaded light,
the proud old church stands firm and sure,
caressed by time, and whispering trees,
till her people come home once more.

She waits, as over many years,
for worshippers to give her life.
the pealing of her old church bell,
calls the people from far and wide,
soon they arrive and there's brightness,
there's music, warmth, feeling, there's light,
she lives again, God's people are home,
she welcomes them all to His sight.

for she has seen many changes,
spring, summer, winter and fall,
joy, sadness, poverty, plenty,
the old church has witnessed them all.

She's seen priests, fathers and bishops,
baptisms, marriage and death,
but singing praise to her Father
is the thing the old church does best.

Yet soon again there is silence
she waits, in the light, dark and rain,
for God's people to come to his presence,
and give her new life again.



The Rev'd Prof Trevor Hart wrote to the congregation of St Andrews, St Andrews 'Isolation does not and cannot ever isolate us from God who is never more present to us than in times of struggle, sorrow and suffering. Israel thought that the Lord had been left behind in the Jerusalem temple and was now far beyond their reach. That's the supposition behind the lament of Psalm 137:4 'How can I sing the Lord's song in a strange land?' The worry was that, because God was now more than 6000 miles away across the deserts of Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iraq, God would not be able to hear and might forget about the homesick exiles who wanted nothing more than to show up for worship on Sunday morning at 10 or for Evensong at 5 ... and no doubt too, like many others, the psalmist was worried that without regular contact with a familiar liturgy and the other habits of the life of faith and immersed in and pre-occupied instead with the hurly-burly of Babylonian existence (the equivalent of the drip-feed of 24 hour news, social media or mindless TV watching that threatens to absorb us as we are locked into the confines of our homes) he or she might actually forget how to sing 'the Lord's Song'. But God was NOT remote and hard of hearing because they couldn't get to church... In fact, cleared of the clutter of all their 'religion' its entirely possible that in the experience of exile God actually find it easier in some ways to break through, make his presence felt and so solicit meaningful response.

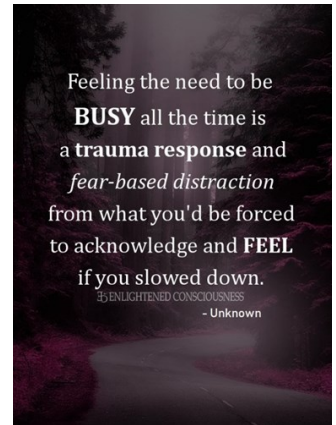


RESOURCING OURSELVES OTHERS

Continuing Ministerial Development of the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

Around the Diocese

The Rev'd Dr Michael Paterson, CMD Coordinator writes 'Four weeks into the lockdown and I am seeing more and more clergy and front line workers simply exhausted. I am really concerned by the numbers of people I see carrying on business as usual – the only difference being that everything is now digital or phone based. As a psychotherapist I want to say that there is nothing normal about what we are living through. Survival is the name of the game right now and pastors and frontline workers are manifesting Mid Traumatic Stress. Not because they can't cope or because they are not resilient but quite simply because they are alive and care and are paying attention. So please, please, please lets get real about this and slow down and face the truth that we are not in control but neither has God forgotten us.'



Online resources



Outreach magazine (USA) offers this resource site <https://outreachmagazine.com/resources/apps-and-software/54800-the-covid-19-ministry-resource-guide-for-churches.html>

The Church of England site <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online> offers prayers, worship, training webinars and mental health reflections. <https://churchsupport.online> is an information hub to support churches with responding to Coronavirus. Includes sections on mental health and financial support

Why is it so exhausting doing everything online? Two articles respond <https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20200421-why-zoom-video-chats-are-so-exhausting?ocid=ww.social.link.email> and <https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/deviced/202004/why-video-chats-are-wearing-us-out?eml>

Prayer & Spirituality



The British Province of the Jesuits are offering a range of online retreats during lockdown
At Retreat for You at Home – an individually guided retreat of 4-7 days. www.iscglasgow.co.uk/homeretreat.html
Easter Online Retreat www.iscglasgow.co.uk/easterretreat.html
Act of the Apostles (leading up to Pentecost): <https://pray-as-you-go.org/retreat/acts-of-the-apostles>
Easter New Creation Retreat: <https://soundcloud.com/jesuitsinbritain/sets/walking-with-the-risen-christ>
Living the Magnificat (Mary's song): <https://pray-as-you-go.org/article/living-the-magnificat>
Where Two Are Gathered (7 day audio retreat for married couples): <https://pray-as-you-go.org/retreat/marriage>
Imaginative Contemplation Exercises: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/retreat/imaginative-contemplation>
Journey into Freedom (based on the Spiritual Exercises): <https://www.jesuit.org.uk/journey-freedom>

Ramadam

The world needs community like never before. As sisters and brothers begin to observe the month of Ramadan, the Corrymeela Community offers this prayer as part of an ongoing series.

God of our daily bread,

God of the crescent moon:
as many on earth begin to observe
a month of fasting and prayer,
we all enter another month
like none that have come before.

In these irregular times,

we will not break fast together,
or commune around the same table.

But we pray that you would unite us

in our shared humanity,
and that we would resolve to break our bread
with those who are most in need,
so that our chronic disease of division
leads us not into a famine of compassion.

Amen.





RESOURCING OURSELVES OTHERS

Continuing Ministerial Development of the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

Prayer & Spirituality

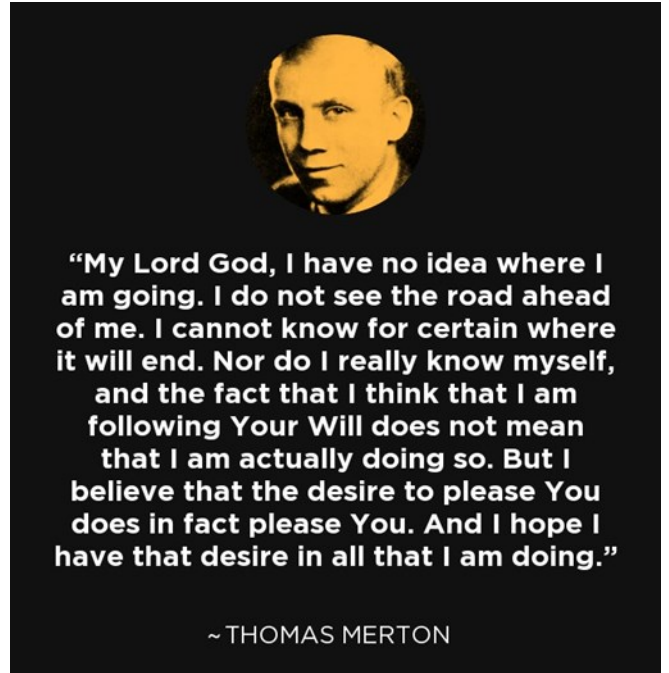


Psalm 116.

Drowning.
Your hand rescued me.
Wounded.
Your balm soothed me.
Terrified.
Your peace encompassed me.
Lost.
You found me.
Your healing love weaves
the tattered pieces of my life
into a garment of joy.
You gave me life.
How may I repay you but to live it
– joyfully, gratefully,
sharing the love that has made me whole,
singing of your goodness in the land of the
living, and dying in peace when my time
comes
– the Shema on my lips?
You are my God, you alone!

Carla A. Grosch-Miller Psalms Redux

Rev'd Denise Herbert commends this prayer entitled 'Thoughts in Solitude' By Thomas Merton



Christian Theology & COVID-19

An online conference to stimulate some initial theological reflection on the global COVID-19 pandemic. Possible theological questions include

How might Christian communities read the Scriptures in times like these?

How might scientific and theological narratives about the pandemic relate to one another?

What forms of theological reflection are most helpful and which are irresponsible, unhelpful or actively harmful?

Wednesday 17th June from 12:00 to 18:00 To register send your name and email address by Wednesday 27th May to: Neil.Messer@winchester.ac.uk

Reflections

One of the things that Covid-19 sufferers and those who are trying to work through this crisis have in common is the difficulty in concentration and making sense as this quotation attests:

'Ideas hang on me like outsize clothes into which I still have to grow. My mind lags behind my intuition ... [which] means that my mind .. must sometimes work overtime in order to seize the various premonitions by their coat-tails. A host of concrete ideas keep clamouring for concrete formulation. I must stop and listen to myself, sound my own depths, eat well and sleep properly if I am to keep my balance ...but alas, the emphasis these days is on speed, not on rest.' **Etty Hillesum An Interrupted Life**



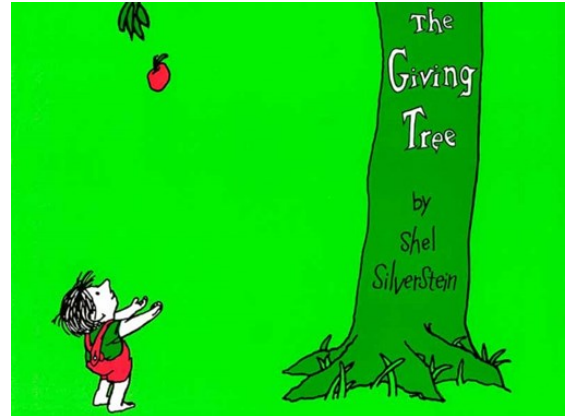
RESOURCING OURSELVES OTHERS

Continuing Ministerial Development of the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

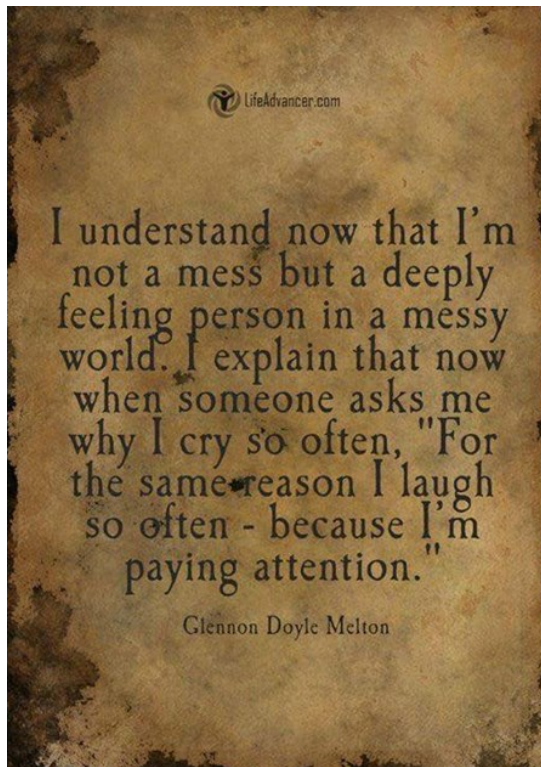
Suggested Reading

Articles are regularly being posted on the Diocesan Website, Clergy Development Resources page. <https://standrews.anglican.org/clergy-development-resources/>

Meanwhile for all of us who are trying to do our best to look after others here's a children's story with a powerful moral. You can even watch and hear a narrated version at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFQZfeHq9wo>



And finally



Thanks to all our contributors. Sharing news and resources with each other is one way we can exercise our collegiality during this strangest of times.

Contributions in Word format please by email to The Rev'd Dr Michael Paterson cmdcoordinator@gmail.com.

Next edition **Wednesday 06th May**.

<https://standrews.anglican.org/clergy-development-resources/>