



RESOURCING OURSELVES OTHERS

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

Issue 5. 22nd April 2020

Online Clergy Reflection Group



On 15th April **The Rev'd Bonnie Evans-Hills, Leven** led a reflection based on the differences between the resurrection of Lazarus and of Jesus against the backdrop of trauma studies.

On 22nd April **The Rev'd Dr Michael Paterson**, CMD Coordinator will kickstart a reflection 'Talking of/to God in Covid'.

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 cmdcoordinator@gmail.com

From around the Diocese



The Rev'd Nerys Brown, Diocesan Chaplain to the Mothers Union directs our attention to MU resources to help combat feelings of loneliness, to nourish faith and to help people feel connected to friends and community.

<https://www.mothersunion.org/resources-support-us-challenging-times?fbclid=IwAR0Fokmct6YN-RL4OKvXkNJPQhJhN69xJSAyqo8u-6TGS-Izu03EpiW9wA8>

The Rev'd Canon Dr Alison Peden, St Modoc's, Doune shares this very helpful diagram with us which invites us to locate ourselves and our responses to Covid-19



The Rev'd Denise Herbert writes: I have just finished reading Denis Edward's excellent book *Ecology at the Heart of Faith* and whilst I had been pondering celebrating the Eucharist alone it has never felt right until I hit a piece in the book near the end - "When Christians gather for Eucharist they bring creation with them. Every Eucharist can be understood as the lifting up of creation to God, the living memory of both creation and redemption, the sacrament of the cosmic Christ, participation with all God's creatures in the communion of the Trinity, and solidarity with victims". P122.

I decided late on Holy Saturday that if it was dry outside on Easter Day I would keep the early morning Vigil - So on Easter morning I had the New Fire, Paschal Candle, Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Eucharist I was accompanied during this time by a coal tit, a robin and several sparrows chirping in the bushes and other birds flying over head and calling to each other - the sense of creation all around - and life going on with a tractor ploughing in a field beyond my fence, an occasional person passing by. I spoke the entire liturgy aloud but quietly which made a difference - and reading the story of the Resurrection from John 20 by my pear tree was so moving that I felt quite overcome! And as I held the Host aloft it felt as though it was connected to the whole of creation - the Spring beauty around me and those beyond the fence - and somehow all were joining in with alleluias!"



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Online resources



www.theworkofthepeople.com are offering free films during this time of lockdown which can be used for personal reflection or within online worship.

Ministry Resources Scotland group offers a plethora of resources <https://www.facebook.com/groups/266914003367587/>

Churchofengland.org/ChurchOnline 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

Prayer & Spirituality



Ever present God,

be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be joy in our sadness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen
we may with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities
and speak of your goodness
to an emerging world.
For Jesus' sake.

Amen.

Lincoln Cathedral Website

Loving God

As I enter the gift of a new day
On the edge
Out of my comfort zone
You are before me

Help me to be
Open
Honest
Real

To you
With you
For you.

Help me to be
Open
Honest
Real

To others
With others
For others.

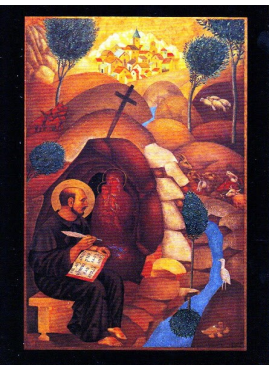
Help me to be
Open
Honest
Real

To me
With me
For me.

In my desire to do so
I may glimpse you today.

Amen

Rev Dr Ewan Kelly, Chaplain NHS Dumfries & Galloway



The Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow is offering an online Easter retreat

https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/easterretreat.html?mc_cid=23f80fbf7a&mc_eid=dbdfc39e7c

The World Community for Christian Meditation is offering a contemplative path through the crisis. <https://www.wccm.org/>



Reflections

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'Let us not give in to resignation; let us not place a stone before hope. We can and must hope, because God is faithful'

Pope Francis, Easter Message

'Surges of hope, shattering the surrounding darkness, providing a glimpse of a radical alternative. Even if brief, even if the following minutes, hours, days are unknown and scary, the surge of hope carries us forward.'

Neil Paynter

We are in an unfolding, multifaceted tragedy. Let's not be hasty with glib responses; better to follow Bonhoeffer's lead in leaving the unsolvable unsolved.

David Bunce

We can find good in evil but an ordeal remains an ordeal so let's not give it a moral reading too quickly

Archbishop Luc of Strasbourg

Locked inside
in fear
Huddled together
not sure of what to do next
Some champing at the bit
just waiting for things
to get back to normal
back to whatever was left
of their livelihoods
Some never wanting to show face again
so disillusioned were they
crushed hopes
crushed dreams
resigned to life in lockdown
When the Risen Christ appeared
Peace was probably
the last thing they wanted
Peace?
What were they supposed
to do with peace?
They wanted an explanation

Advice

Motivation



Direction

Not peace

Particularly not breathed peace

Breath carries the stench of death
the danger of contagion

Peace

Breathed in
was what they got
and what they needed

And it was
by breathing in peace
that they were able
to face the world
in Resurrection light.

Liz Crumlish

www.liz-vicarofdibley.blogspot.com



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Suggested Reading

Some articles have been posted on the Diocesan Website, Clergy Development Resources page. <https://standrews.anglican.org/clergy-development-resources/>, among them:

'Disenfranchised Grief' by **Jess Swance**

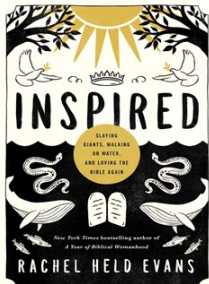
'Your Brain won't work as well: Tips for Spiritual Leaders during Covid 19' by **Emily Scott**

Other articles of interest

'When everyday feels like Good Friday'

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/theology-en-la-plaza/pandemic-when-every-day-feels-good-friday>

'Leading in Uncertain times' <https://medium.com/age-of-emergence/leading-in-uncertain-times-the-journey-within-2abcc52fc3e8>



Inspired by **Rachel Held Evans** is intended to be read, wrestled with, discussed, debated, and creatively engaged with in the context of community. The writer's position is that the Bible does not always provide clear, straightforward answers to difficult questions, but rather relies on story and song, letters and laws, poetry and proverb to spark among God's people the questions, ideas, and actions that bring them closer to truth and to one another. As such 'the sacred text becomes a crucial point of contact, a great dining room table, erected by God and set by God's people, where those who hunger for nourishment and companionship can gather together and be filled'. Evans hopes in writing the book is the it 'helps you set that kind of table—in your church, in your small group, or in your time of personal study.' **Rachel Held Evans**

And finally

Thanks to all our contributors. Lets keep exercising our presbyteral collegiality by sharing resources with each other.

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

Next edition **Wednesday 29th April**.

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

