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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

W/C 22.3.20

THIS WEEK IN CHURCH

In light of the government's latest advice, our Churches are now closed. However, if you would like to pray or chat on the phone or over the internet, this can be arranged through Stephen on 01274 522717, or via social media

We're also trying to organise a system of 'pastoral phonecalls' - making sure that everyone who wants someone has someone who they know is on the end of the phone to chat and pray if they need to - if you'd like to be a part of looking after us all then please do get in touch!

a thought from the Curate

What a week it's been again - another rollercoaster of Government advice, changes in plans, and many folks already feeling the stress of now having to work out home schooling children amidst all the extra stresses.

It does make you more speedy to pray for teachers though! ~Do take a moment to do so, as I went in to visit All Saints school last week and many of them are just as shaken by the school closures as the children are!

We're also hit in recent days by the enforced closure of places of worship as well, which means for many of us one opportunity to find life and spiritual sustenance is off the cards for a while.

This does not need to be the end of our faith though - we say regularly that Church is about the people and the family rather than the building, and modern technology gives us plenty of options to stay in touch with others and experience new ways of thinking about worshipping God also. This Sunday, we'll be experimenting with livestreaming a service, both through the website and facebook, so I hope you can find a way to engage with that and that it will be a blessing to you, and to God, to see our humble efforts!

These times may be trying, but please do remember that our hope in Christ is always bigger than anything the world can throw at us. Maybe there's a way to see this time of enforced solitude a bit like the monk's saw isolation and pilgrimage - a way to connect personally with prayer and spirituality. There's loads of resources online, maybe check out <http://24-7prayer.com> for somewhere to start, or give me a ring and we can talk it through!

We may be apart, but don't be a stranger, to each other, or to God. Every blessing, Derek.

A PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.



READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Exodus 2:1-10

New International Version (NIV)

W/C 22.3.20

The Birth of Moses

2 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. 6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. 7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" 8 "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

Psalm 34:11-20 - New International Version (NIV)

11 Come, my children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 Whoever of you loves life
and desires to see many good days,
13 keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from telling lies.

14 Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it. 15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are attentive to their cry;

16 but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to blot out their name from the earth. 17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.

18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit. 19 The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the Lord delivers him from them all;

20 he protects all his bones,
not one of them will be broken.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

New International Version (NIV)

Praise to the God of All Comfort

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 5 For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. 6 If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 7 And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.