

## **A message from your local church: Week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 1 Corinthians 4 v 4-6*

As we all have our normal routines turned upside down some new patterns and routines are developing in our house. My eldest who is somewhat of a technology superfan is probably enjoying life far more at present than his normal routine. He's helping me learn about an online video channel called Youtube, having previously agreed to give it up for Lent!

I've helped set up a network in Carlton, like the ones that are springing up all round the country, to support those who are housebound. However I'm not sure who is being helped the most, the person who is housebound, or the folk like me who are desperate to help! We have however over 45 volunteers registered and are setting up a book deposit in the village hall so we can take these out to anyone stuck for a new book.

We've also added to our small WhatsApp group this week and been able to share information as a small group of Christians, forming a new kind of community. It's all a bit strange and new, and at times quite random. But I think that's what community is always like! We have prayed for a new baby that's arrived in Drax, for families we know who have lost loved ones and are unable to grieve together, and praying for family members who may have Coronavirus symptoms. I'm also doing a thought for the day on Wednesday we will share online. The tool we are using for the Whatsapp group is an App called 'Pray as you Go'. If you have a smartphone, and a younger member of the family who could help, it's possible to set this up as a daily reflection too.

I believe that our Christian communities should be a bit different. Because, in God's economy the vulnerable and the weak are treasures to behold, and the folk who have limited intelligence are the greatest teachers. I'm learning about this for my studies, as I'm investigating a theology of disability, particularly around including children with additional needs in church. One of the writers I'm looking at is father to a child with autism and a professor of theology, and he said this 'In the hospitality of the Holy Spirit, Christians discover that they never escape the role of recipient. The Spirit thus upends widespread assumptions about who the 'we' is and who needs to be 'included' In the working of divine mercy that is the Holy Spirit, human beings receive their being in Christ from each other, in community.' (*Brian Brock, Wondrously Wounded*).

While we can't be a church family in the same way, I believe that like in 1 Corinthians 12 we all have different parts to play. The mundane and normal things we can do to serve are of even more importance today. Sometimes we might have to be creative or try new things; but even without this, I will always be a recipient of God's love, always his child, and always have my own unique part to play.

## **Praying together**

If you have any specific prayer requests for individuals, please do let Rev Anna or myself know.

This week the groups of people we might include are

- People struggling with addictions, mental health needs or living in poverty
- Women at risk of domestic violence
- Anyone who has recently been bereaved
- Couples postponing weddings
- People who are home educating, and working from home without much space for everyone to share
- People who are worried about where the money is going to come from for food next week, and the work of the Foodbank.
- GPs, and care staff working in nursing homes and people's homes, to provide essential care and treatment in the community.
- Women who are pregnant and their extended families who can't support at the moment
- Our leaders in government and the church

## **Food bank appeal**

The food bank is still collecting food but short of donations. They currently need

TINNED FRUIT (400GMS)

TEA BAGS (80'S)

DRIED PASTA (500GMS)

UHT MILK (1 LITRE)

BREAKFAST CEREALS

To make a donation you can post a cheque to

Selby and District Foodbank

30, New Lane

Selby

YO8 4QB