

Church Without Walls

Issue 9 May 31st 2020



Please pray for Mathias who is a Radiologist working in the MRI department:



'Work has been very busy and challenging because of the extra infection

control measures we have to take since every patient we come in contact with has to be treated as COVID-19 positive even when they do not have symptoms. Scanning COVID-19 positive patients is more challenging and stressful.

One of the complications of COVID-19 patients has been an increase in strokes. MRI is good at detecting strokes and so we have been scanning COVID patients for strokes.

Some of the patients who come for scans are very confused and at times unable to co-operate and sometimes take off their face masks while we are attending to them.'

Please pray for protection for Mathias and the whole family as he continues to work through this period in the NHS.



This week please pray for the people living in Tay Street

Faith Flourishing in Lockdown

Is the nation turning to God in prayer? Well, not quite yet, but research from Tearfund has shown that prayer is more common than many would think, with just under half (44%) of UK adults saying that they pray, and one in twenty (5%) saying they have started praying during the lockdown. Daily data from Google for 95 countries corroborates this increased interest, as searches for prayer are at their highest levels ever recorded.

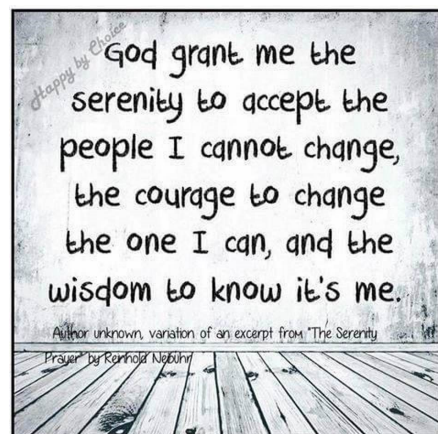
In addition, a quarter (24%) of UK adults say they have watched or listened to a religious service since lockdown, 5% of whom say they have never been to church before. Some churches are seeing double, sometimes triple, the number of people watching their Sunday meetings online that would normally attend in person.

...

So let this research give you a new courage to offer to pray for people you know who are struggling, or invite them to watch an online service. And let's also turn our prayers and actions beyond our immediate horizons to remember that we are part of a global community.

Dr. Ruth Valerio

[Taken from the website of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity - read more here](#)



 **St Stephen's**
LEARNING TO LOVE AS JESUS DOES

Church Without Walls

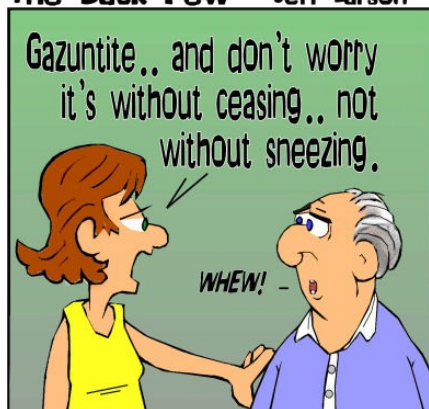
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Trypraying is an invitation to start a conversation with God.

The trypraying booklet is a 7-day prayer guide for those who are not religious, but will guide anyone through 7 days of prayer. It contains prayers, ideas & stories of answered prayer. If you would like one of these for yourself or to give to someone else, please help yourself from the box attached to the railings outside church.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Compounding Alvin's seasonal allergies was his misunderstanding of the scripture Pray without ceasing.
I Thes 5:17

Email Dave for an invitation to Compline
on zoom at 8pm Monday-Thursday
vicardave@ststephenspreston.org.uk

Remember to give this number to anyone you know who would appreciate being able to hear a message of hope at this time



Taken from a *Thy Kingdom Come* email:

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8.37-39)

REFLECTION

We expect there must be something that can separate us from the love of God. But God is saying, 'I don't care where you are, what you're doing, how far away you are: my love for you will not change.'

Sometimes we think that God's love is dependent on the way we act. But God is saying, 'Listen, not even the heights of this earth could separate me or stop me from loving you.'

Christianity is first a relationship with God through Jesus, not first a series of activities! The love of God is ultimately expressed in the Cross of Christ, which stands for all time as the sign and assurance of God's unchanging love.

PRAYER

Loving God, thank You for Your love from which nothing can separate us, and which does not depend on our efforts. Please reveal this love and the peace it brings, in the lives of the five people I am praying for.

ACTION

Think about how you can show someone that they are loved and known by God.



THY KINGDOM COME

We have been praying for 5 people since Ascension Day, and have participated in the 24/7 two days of prayer. Do you have any stories to share from this? If so, please send them to Dave
(vicardave@ststephenspreston.org.uk)

