



Keeping connected

together in the Benefice of Faversham and beyond

Sunday 26 April 2020 | 3rd Sunday of Easter

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**St Peter & St Paul,
Ospringe**
Facebook: [Fb.me/4favstpp](https://www.facebook.com/4favstpp)

Church Wardens:
Phil Larter: 07792 998625
Jason O'Hagan: 07890 108824



**St Mary Magdalene & St Lawrence,
Davington**
Facebook: [fb.me/4favstmmml](https://www.facebook.com/4favstmmml)

Church Warden:
Elizabeth Walsh: 01795 530186



**St Mary of Charity,
Faversham**
Facebook: [Fb.me/4favstmoc](https://www.facebook.com/4favstmoc)

Church Warden:
Miranda Ford: 07774 128128



**St Catherine,
Preston-next-Faversham**
Facebook: [Fb.me/4favstc](https://www.facebook.com/4favstc)

Church Wardens:
Hilary Tulett: 01795 538013
Rodney Ford: 01795 535937

“Alleluia Christ has risen – He has risen indeed alleluia.”

This proclamation at Easter has rang through our churches over centuries but for the first time this Easter our churches remained silent. Yet it is our church members that make 'the church' not our buildings and I know from comments received from many of you who would normally attend one of our churches joined in some way to celebrate Easter this year with the Easter acclamation ringing in many homes.

The disciples and those around them met initially in people's homes and these were the first Christian Churches. Then as now we are rethinking how it is to worship God to the best of our abilities.

God's grace and love revealed in Jesus Christ overcame death for each one of us and no matter how inconvenient or worrying these times maybe God's love for us remains as steadfast as it was that first Easter Sunday.

This is our first Benefice newsletter covering the four Faversham C of E churches. We hope it will help you feel connected in a small way with your church particularly if you cannot use social media to join us on Sunday for worship via YouTube. If you have any articles for future newsletters or prayer requests, please send them to the email address below. It's good to share our good news as well as our concerns with one another.

“God's love for us remains as steadfast as it was that first Easter Sunday.”

If you are feeling disconnected from the world and people around you do continue to persevere with your prayers. Everyone's prayer is of incalculable value and allows 'the church' to continue its mission in our communities. In the Acts of the Apostles 5:42 we read that the church community

'every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah'.

We cannot enter our churches or temples, but the church of our hearts is where we pray. I hope in this period that allows time for quiet reflection we can take time in a more routine fashion to pray for our nation, the church community and our world.

We have been blessed by so many people volunteering to help, so if you feel that we as a church community can reach out and help you do please get in touch via our email address 4favshamchurches@gmail.com or by telephone 01795 532592. All of you continue to remain in my daily prayers. With God's grace and our perseverance together with the courageous care given by the NHS staff and those supporting them we can defeat this virus and come out of this time a stronger church and community.

Yours in Christ, Revd Simon Rowlands.



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**Keyworkers everywhere:
Thank you
and
God bless you all!**

Volunteers of Faversham

A huge thank you to all the Volunteers in Faversham that are supporting everyone in this strange and special situation. A special thank you to those from our Benefice Churches who are individually or part of a local group supporting, who may be a Swale or NHS Responder volunteer. Thank you so much, the support system would collapse without you. We miss you and our prayers and love go with you.

Virtual Everything – keeping us connected

The online facilities have never been so important, so another huge thank you to those who are YouTubing, Facebooking and Zooming (other video platforms are available)!! New and wonderful connections all around us **BUT** phone calls and letters are equally important to those who can't use or access the technical facilities and this newsletter will not only be emailed but will also be posted through people's letter boxes.

Facebook pages:

St Catherine, Preston: fb.me/4favstc

St Mary Magdalene with St Lawrence, Davington: fb.me/4favstmml

St Peter & St Paul, Ospringe: fb.me/4favstpp

St Mary of Charity, Faversham: fb.me/4favstmoc

Faversham Benefice (all churches): fb.me/4favchurches



Powered by
zoom



Faversham Benefice is 24/7 with a local and global reach!

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to and accessed our online services!

All our services since the end of March have been uploaded to our YouTube Channel. Visit youtube.com and search: *Faversham Benefice*.

We have our weekly *Sunday services*, some *Daily Prayers*, a series of Holy Week reflections called *Contemplating Easter*, an *Active Church Easter Special* and more services and events are planned. Church groups have also been meeting through the week on zoom.us too and we have our daily *SingalongZoomalong* at 6pm. (see below)

If you would like to receive any online ministry on DVD, please do get in touch. We will get these to you or anyone else who you know as soon as we are able to do so.



You'll now find a new page "Faversham Benefice of Churches" on Facebook and followers are growing in number daily. St Mary of Charity (Faversham): their Facebook group has increased from 57 members to 180 members in the last 3 weeks. St Mary Magdalene with St Lawrence (Davington) have a new Facebook page which is growing its friends/followers. St Peter and St Paul (Ospringe) are developing their existing Facebook page as we speak and St Catherine's (Preston) as always continues growing their successful Facebook presence.

Look us up online join one or a number of the Churches on Facebook and share with us, everything that's happening at this strange but special time. Come and join our Community.



**Singalong with God's story
where hopeless endings
become endless hopings**

Every evening at 6pm
zoom.us ID: 688 460 8849



A faith reset

by Jason O'Hagan

It seems to me in these present times the world is being forced into a kind of reset. Pollution levels have dropped dramatically – in India, the once shrouded Himalayas can clearly be seen for the first time in 30 years. It is interesting that the rainbow – the symbol of God's promise following the Flood (which you could read as a reset for those times) is being used everywhere as a symbol of hope.

What is being brought sharply into focus is what really matters –

bonds between people, family and friends, our health, freedom and love.

Prayers are being said for those fighting Covid-19 and those helping – the front line workers. People are turning to faith and drawing on their faith. I spoke in March about the power of faith – it was a reflection on the story in John 3 about Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus and the question of being 'born again'. Here is a summary:

We can take this time we are in to live out being born again of faith in God, to be able to reflect His nature and transform

ourselves into our intended state. We are restored to a relationship with God by faith and forgiveness. We develop righteousness through faith and obedience. Let us be powered by faith, which will reset all the things we need to (a bit like the factory reset button on your PC or phone!). Let us allow God to reset us, through faith - so that we can grow deeper in faith, be able to walk more closely with God and love and serve one another. Faith is the light in this present darkness and will overcome it – as God has promised.

Dear Friends

by Canon Struan H Dunn

I remember it well! The conquest of Everest. News of it coincided with the Queen's Coronation ceremony in 1953. I remember watching the first film made of this historic event when Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing reached the summit. More recently, I saw a TV documentary in honour of Hillary who died twelve years ago. In that short film I learnt something new about how those two men spent their precious fifteen minutes on top of the world. Tenzing buried some sweets in the snow. Hillary left a cross.

I am reminded of one of the most celebrated and reproduced religious paintings of the twentieth century, Salvador Dali's 'Christ of St John of the Cross', which, like so much of Dali's work provokes strong reactions. Inspired by a drawing attributed to St John of the Cross, a Spanish Carmelite friar and mystic, Dali had a dream and heard a voice which told him, 'You must paint this Christ'. Following this vision, Dali paints Christ on a cross suspended in mid-air, his head tilted, so that his face is hidden from the viewer. A shaft of light delineates the suffering Christ against a bleak, black firmament. Beneath, clouds separate to reveal a clear blue sky. Dawn breaks and that light is reflected on a lake, which, in Dali's mind, is the landscape of Port Lligat on the Costa Brava where Dali had his

The wonder of the painting is that it is open to all kinds of interpretation. For me, it connects with the cross planted on the top of Everest. Both crosses represent God's overarching love for the world, the dimensions of which are without limit. There can be no higher love than God's love. It also reaches down to deepest needs of humankind. It is without discrimination and unconditional. On Good Friday, Christians will call to mind Christ's suffering and how, impaled upon that cross outside Jerusalem's walls, he took upon himself all the sin, rejection, grief and pain of a broken world. The full significance and totality of Christ's death will forever remain a mystery, and this side of glory we will never fathom its depths.

The dangling cross of Dali speaks of offer and invitation. For God's love is never imposed or forced. The fruits of Christ's 'Passion', his forgiveness, peace and love, are to be received through faith and gratitude. Then we will be able say with the Apostle Paul 'Christ died for me'. Good Friday is followed by Easter Day when we celebrate Christ's resurrection, the cornerstone of our faith. In praise we sing these lines of an Easter Hymn.

*'But the pains that he endured, our salvation have procured;
now above the sky he's King, where the angels ever sing. 'Alleluia'.*

Wishing you God's love, peace and joy this Eastertide,
Struan



VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY

FAVERSHAM

FRIDAY 8 MAY 2020

Take part in a
Faversham VE Day singalong of
"We'll meet again"!

1

Grab some headphones and plug them into a PC, laptop, phone or tablet.

2

Visit youarecrucial.org to access the song video beautifully recorded by Naomi.

3

Grab another device to video yourself singing.

4

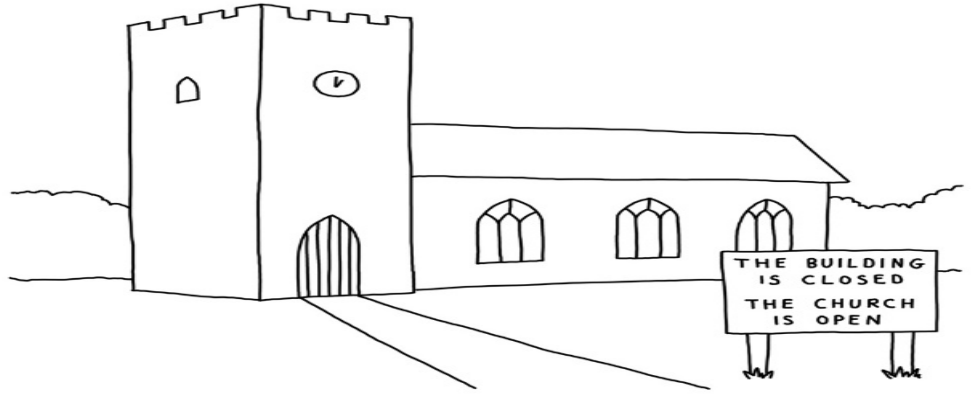
Send your finished video to: Singalongkent@gmail.com. If the video is too large for email, you can use wetransfer.com for free.

It's as simple as that!

Singers who are under 18 will need adult permission.

Closing date: 11.59pm on Monday 4th May.

Let's get singing to honour all those who made VE Day possible.



CartoonChurch.com

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



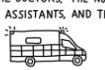
FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS



FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS.



FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPITE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED.



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY - THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS: ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

TEXT: JAYNE MANFREDI

CartoonChurch.com

A Wordsearch

Find the 40 words/phrases and work out the theme!

They may be forwards, backwards, diagonally, vertically, horizontally. (Here are three of them to start you off... hope, pray, promise)

You may want to print this page or keep a list of the what you find! Please don't write on your screen!!!

E	W	P	E	P	O	H	P	P	U	O	D	O	G
N	S	A	G	I	D	C	R	N	I	S	N	G	T
O	A	I	A	A	V	R	A	K	S	R	E	T	R
I	V	N	M	C	Y	U	Y	O	J	D	H	B	A
T	I	R	M	O	C	H	R	I	S	T	H	R	N
C	O	L	Y	D	R	C	D	N	I	K	E	F	S
E	U	E	C	A	E	P	Q	A	Q	H	R	U	F
R	R	Y	L	I	M	A	F	W	T	E	S	W	O
R	B	T	W	T	N	E	T	A	E	E	K	X	R
U	P	R	O	D	A	E	F	H	J	V	I	W	M
S	R	A	R	S	O	V	M	I	L	K	N	E	A
E	M	P	T	Y	T	O	M	B	L	I	G	H	T
R	S	K	H	U	T	L	G	H	O	W	A	V	I
W	B	B	A	P	T	I	S	M	R	L	E	N	O
Z	N	E	V	I	G	R	O	F	D	F	S	N	N



On the Road to Emmaus

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.



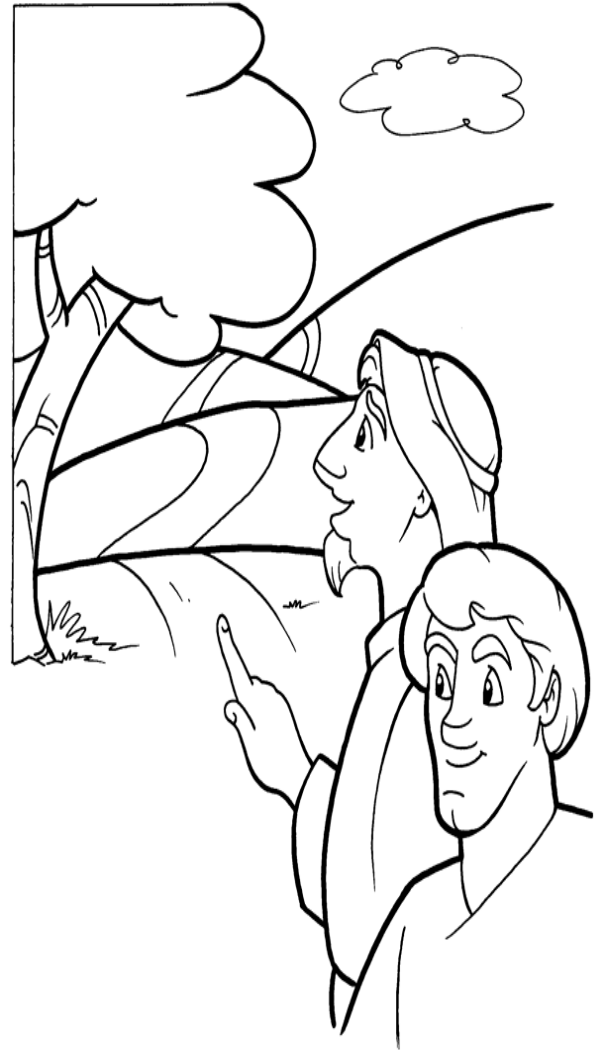
Now that same day two of them were going to a village called _____, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, _____ himself came up and _____ along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly _____; the _____ is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

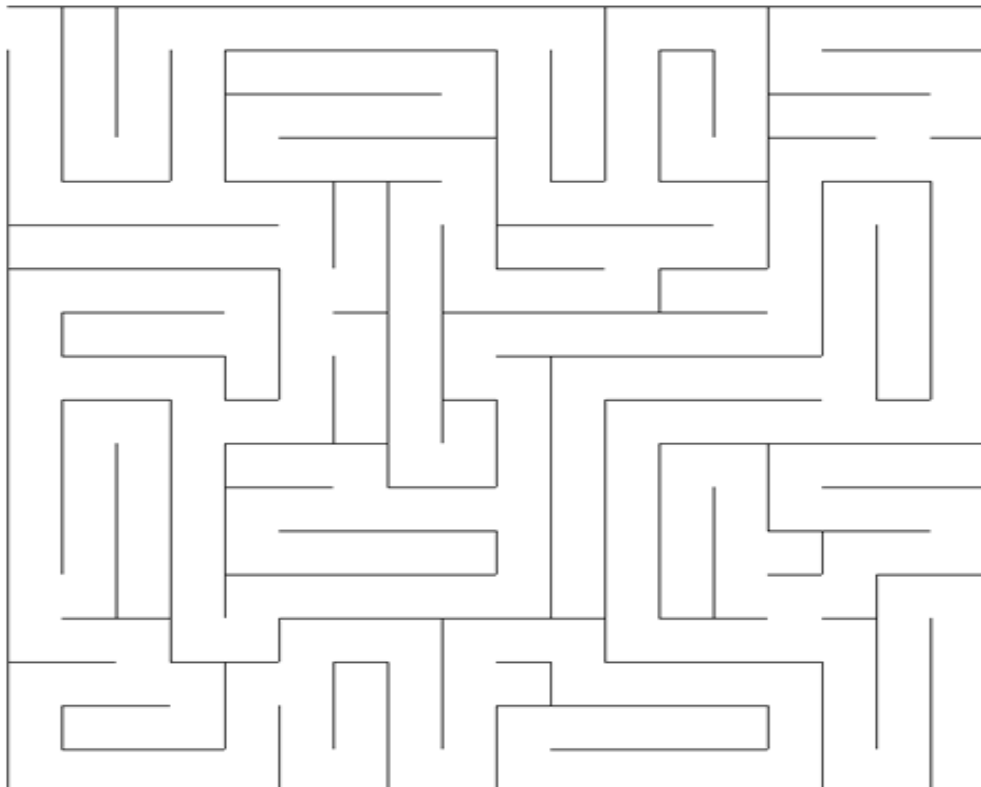
When he was at the _____ with them, he took _____, gave _____, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their _____ were _____ and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

Luke 24:13-16, 28-31 (NIV)

bread	Emmaus	eyes	opened	thanks
day	evening	Jesus	table	walked



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Emmaus



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope, which is available from today, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

The service is supported by the Church of England nationally as well as through the Connections group based at Holy Trinity Claygate in Surrey and the Christian charity Faith in Later Life.

The line also recognises the impact of social distancing restrictions and self-isolation measures on those suffering from loneliness.

Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.

Options available include materials also available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer, updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service.

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A section called *Hymn Line* offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection and is based on an initiative by the Connections group

Archbishop Justin said:

"With many in our country on lockdown, it's important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are.

"The Daily Hope service will allow people to hear hymns, prayers and words that offer comfort and hope, especially in this Easter season.

"I want to urge people to spread the news about this service. If there is someone you know who is particularly struggling, give them a call and let them know about the Daily Hope. I'm going to phone a friend; will you join me?"

Carl Knightly, chief executive of Faith in Later Life, added:

"The Church must be those who offer hope to our nation at this time, and I am delighted that Faith in Later Life is able to be part of this project.

"We know as an organisation of the challenges for older people in our society in normal times and these are not those, so I want to add our voice to that of the Archbishop and get people sharing this number with whoever they know who would most benefit."

Pippa Cramer, founder of Connections, said:

"At Connections we have found that well-loved hymns are a source of comfort and hope to our seniors. Hymns we Love has proved to be an accessible and popular way to explore the story and meaning behind some of our favourite hymns."

Please remember the following who have died

And please join us in praying for their family and friends.

David Segar	11 09 1937 – 11 03 2020
Ian Munro	11 07 1929 – 14 03 2020
Phyliss Green	29 07 1926 – 24 03 2020
Elizabeth Dawson-Bowling	15 09 1941 – 09 04 2020

Rest eternal grant unto them,
O Lord,
And let light perpetual shine
upon them.
May they rest in peace,
And rise in glory.



A form of daily prayer...

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.
 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

Yesterday I was crucified with Christ;
 today I am glorified with him.
 Yesterday I was dead with Christ;
 today I am sharing in his resurrection.
 Yesterday I was buried with him;
 today I am waking with him from the sleep of death.
(Gregory of Nazianzus (389))

Bible readings.

Ask, "why does God want us to read this today?"

Psalm: You could read some of a Psalm a day!
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Old Testament and New Testament:

You could pick a book from the Old and New Testaments and read a chapter a day!

Prayers (see "Prayer through the week" below...)

- ¶ The people of God proclaiming the risen Lord
- ¶ God's creation, that people may care for it
- ¶ That those in despair and darkness may find hope and light of Christ
- ¶ Those in fear of death finding faith through the resurrection
- ¶ Prisoners and captives

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From the Easter Vigil:

Christ yesterday and today,
 the beginning and the end,
 Alpha and Omega,
 all time belongs to you, and all ages;
 to you be glory and power
 through every age and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation;
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

May the risen Christ give us his peace.
 Alleluia. Amen.



Prayer topics through the week...

Every day

- AM: the day ahead; the world; the Church
- PM: peace; individuals and their needs

Sunday

- The Church and all who lead
- The leaders of the nations
- The natural world and earth's resources
- All who are in any kind of need

Monday

- The media and arts
- Farming and fishing
- Commerce and industry
- All whose work is unfulfilling, stressful, dangerous
- All who are unemployed

Tuesday

- All who are sick in body, mind or spirit
- Those in the midst of famine or disaster
- Victims of abuse, violence, intolerance, prejudice
- Those who are bereaved
- All who work in the medical and healing professions

Wednesday

- The social services
- All who work in the criminal justice system
- Victims and perpetrators of crime
- The work of aid agencies around the world
- Those living in poverty or under oppression

Thursday

- Local government, community leaders
- local services, emergency and rescue
- Those who work with young or elderly people
- Schools, colleges and universities

Friday

- The Queen, parliament. the armed forces
- Peace and justice in the world
- Those who work for reconciliation
- All who are devastated by war and civil strife
- Prisoners, refugees and homeless people

Saturday

- Our homes, families, friends, all whom we love
- Those whose time is spent caring for others
- Those who are close to death
- Those who have lost hope
- The worship of the Church



A book you may find helpful...

by Revd Sue Smith

The Other Side of Chaos: breaking through when life is breaking down

by Margaret Silf

Published by Darton Longman and Todd (2011)

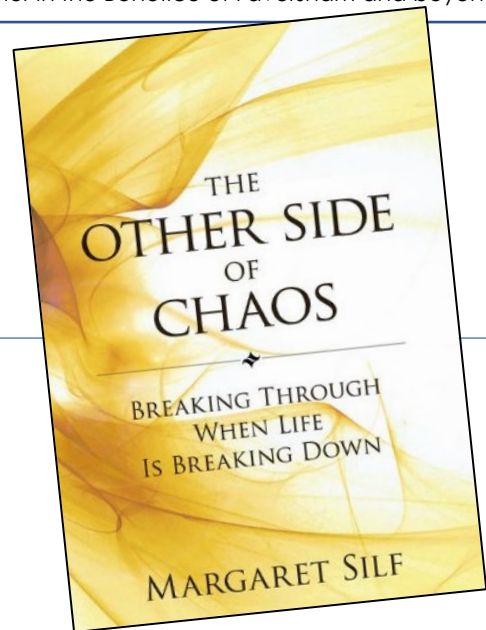
ISBN 978-0-232-52891-6

When we first started this lockdown I had a look at my bookshelves to see what I could read over the coming weeks and realised that many of my books had never been read, bought with every good intention but shelved till I had time, whenever that might be. As I looked one of the titles that immediately stood out for me was 'The Other Side of Chaos: breaking through when life is breaking down'. I had bought it a few years back because I have read other books by the author – Margaret Silf – and they had always helped me greatly – and so I started to read.

Right at the start Silf writes that 'as we make the journey through this book we will explore what it is like to go through upheaval, which often brings unwanted change in its wake and forces us through narrow gateways of transition' and she also comments that we might find ourselves wondering where God is in all this and where is the solid ground. Silf is talking about the smaller transitions we make throughout our lives but also the huge ones that effect our communities, our nations and the whole of humankind and our planet. As I read on, I realised this book was written for the times we are in now, despite having been first published in 2011.

Her choice of the word chaos in the title comes because the Chinese symbol for chaos is made up of two characters – the one for danger and the one for opportunity. And that is the thread throughout the book - that although times of chaos and breakdown bring with them danger and darkness, they also bring the opportunity for change and a breakthrough to resurrection and recreation.

That is, after all, the heart of the Christian story. Silf uses the stories of scripture to show how breakdown and breakthrough are always at the heart of human life. In creation,



God moves over the chaos and is present in the formless void in the wind of his spirit.

The theme is also there in the story of the flood, and in the escape by the Hebrews from Egypt and their journey through the wilderness where they had to rely on God for their safety and for their day to day needs as he used this time of transition to equip them to live a completely new life in the promised land. Then of course there is the Easter story, the death and resurrection of Christ – the chaos that surrounded the disciples, the breakdown of their lives and the breakthrough of Easter morning with all its new beginnings.

Silf gives advice on how we can live through periods of transition, about living one day at a time, about looking for the solid ground, which may not be where we expect it to be. And about casting our nets on the other side of the boat – looking for hidden resources within ourselves and our relationship with God. Looking and listening for where the holy spirit might be inviting us to move through the transition and into breakthrough. She also writes about being prepared to let some things die if the time is right, as that is how we can know resurrection.

I could write on and on about this book, there is so much in it that has spoken to me and has enriched my spiritual journey in these very troubled times. I hope that some of you will also find it a resource and a means of hope and grace, as Silf writes, 'God accompanies us right in the very heart of our process of transition and never leaves us.'