



# RESOURCING OURSELVES OTHERS

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

Issue 7. 6th May 2020

## Online Clergy Reflection Group



The **Online Clergy Reflection Group** which meets via Zoom on Wednesdays from 1030-1130 is proving to be a very valuable means of keeping in touch with our colleagues as well as of meeting and welcoming new priests to the diocese.

On 29th April **the Rev'd Carol Latimer**, All Souls Group helped us think about Ecumenical Possibilities post-Covid.

On 6 May the Rev'd Kathy Barrable, Newport and Tayport will speak from the perspective of a priest who has been inducted to her charge during lockdown.

On 13 May, the Rev'd Lesley-Ann Craddock, Birnam will help us look at 'Ordinary Theology' If any priest or deacon wishes to participate but cannot make Wednesday mornings then let Michael Paterson know and we will see what may be possible [cmdcordinator@gmail.com](mailto:cmdcordinator@gmail.com)



## Contextual Commentary

**The Rev'd Bonnie-Evans-Hill**, St Margaret's Leven draws our attention to an inspirational conversation between London based Rabbi Jeremy Lawrence world bereavement authority Julia Samuel organised by Faiths Forum for London, and the University of Birmingham. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/3909356880059250448> Access is free but you will need to enter a name and email address. There is an internet glitch in the live presentation but give it a couple of minutes and the video will continue.

'**Leading Beyond the Blizzard: Why Every Organization Is Now a Startup**' argues that lockdown is neither a blizzard nor even simply a long winter, but something closer to the beginning of a 12-18 month ice age in which many assumptions and approaches must change for good. The time is therefore ripe to visit our mission and redesign our work in light of what we believe. <https://anglicansablaze.blogspot.com/2020/03/leading-beyond-blizzard-why-every.html>

## Online resources

Choristers from St Martin in the Fields are recording lectionary based hymns and songs for use by those livestreaming Sunday services during the coronavirus pandemic. <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

Sacristy Press is offering free and discounted resources to help with prayer, worship, pastoral support and personal devotion during isolation. [www.sacristy.co.uk/coronavirus](http://www.sacristy.co.uk/coronavirus)

## Beyond Lockdown

A number of people are writing about life after lockdown. Here is a selection:

'Covid 19 A reset moment for the Church'

<https://outreachmagazine.com/interviews/54503-a-reset-moment-for-the-church.html>

**The Rev'd Carol Latimer**, All Souls Group shares this thought from the Focolare Movement: 'We do not know how long this emergency will last: it may be weeks or months. However it will pass. The world we will find at the end of the tunnel is the one we are building now.'

**The Rev'd Dr Michael Paterson**, CMD Coordinator writes 'In the information tsunami that the Coronavirus has unleashed, one of the most helpful things I have come across is this invitation 'In the rush to return to normal, use this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to.' I, welcome that as an invitation to catch the questions that this time raises rather to engage in the premature hermeneutics that would soothe our helplessness and give us back some kind of control. For me some of the questions I want to catch are 'what is working well now, or perhaps even better than ever before?'; 'in what ways are our lives and ministries actually being enriched and not only impeded by lockdown?'; 'what would I/we miss if lockdown were lifted tomorrow?'

At root, the question that teases me most right now is a missiological question which goes like this: 'what are we as church willing to do to join those with whom we are not usually in contact who are currently joining us online once this is over? Business as usual says 'we (church) have a gospel to proclaim' but this is not business as usual. What good news, what gospel do these people have to offer us – as church – and how far are we willing to go to join them and find out where they itch, what their stories are and how they can teach US to be worthy of their trust? Once lockdown is over, I doubt if any of them who turn up on a Sunday morning will find no room at the inn but what if they don't join us, will we roll up our sleeves and join them?'



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## Prayer



**Alexa joins Pray As You Go** to offer a short moment of prayer in the midst of a busy life. The Alexa version offers hands-free operation for everyone, adding new accessibility for people with a vision impairment or with limited mobility or dexterity. <https://www.jesuit.org.uk/tags/pray-you-go-1>

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

**Rev Carla A Grosch-Miller** author of Psalms Re-dux wrote this prayer reflecting on Jacob's wrestling with God. It speaks well to our current situation.

Day begins to break  
the orange glow on the horizon  
hopeful, a creeping warmth.

Blood surges into muscles,  
insistent, willing a final push  
to prevail.

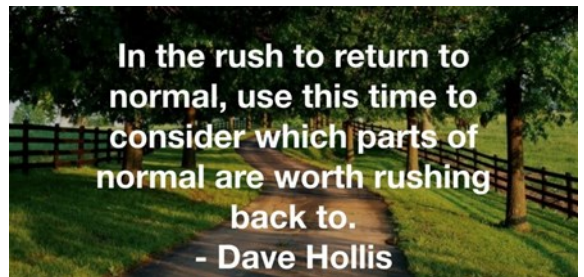
I will wrest a blessing  
From this long struggle.

And though the memory and the wound  
will endure and shape my walk  
for the rest of my days,

in the facing up and the leaning in,  
in the wrestling and the letting go,

I will be blessed.

I will own my name.



## Reflections

**Fr Simon Scally SJ**, Director of Novices for the Society of Jesus draws parallels between Lockdown and formation for religious life <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/resources/ignatian-insight/lock-down-and-open>

**The Rev'd Eddie Sykes** Rosyth Methodist & Episcopalian Partnership sent in this thought on Rehearsed Gratitude by Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson, Charleswood United Church, Winnipeg. 'The community of faith. [is] a group of people who rehearse gratitude. Not simply for the good things in life for which thanksgiving comes easily and naturally, but a community of people who desire to develop the capacity within ourselves to be thankful in times of sorrow and adversity. ... Among religious communities where the hungry are fed, the stranger is welcomed, and the mournful find comfort, there is a rehearsal of the gratitude we feel for the grace we have received and that we can then share with others. This rehearsal has, I believe, helped us prepare for this moment and this crisis.... When we rehearse gratitude ... when we practice giving thanks week after week on days that we laugh and on days that we cry — we are preparing ourselves for a time like this pandemic. Even when things are hard, like now, gratitude can abound deeply in hearts that have been rehearsing for a time like this.'

**The Rev'd Canon Dr Iain Macritchie**, Lead Chaplain at the Louisa Jordan field hospital in Glasgow and Programme Director for Spiritual Care NHS Scotland reflects on the Road to Emmaus and writes: "I've been travelling today with the thought of those Emmaus disciples getting up "in that very hour" and going back to Jerusalem with the good news that they had known Jesus in the broken bread. "That very hour" would have been well past dark by then. So I'm thinking of what it means to travel in the pitch dark with the good news of the resurrection still setting our hearts on fire."



Film and TV

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The Rev'd Carol Latimer, All Souls Group recommends The Search for the Lost Manuscript: Julian of Norwich:  
[www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0716bd0](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0716bd0)

The Work of the People creates film clips and visual liturgies which are not normally available only on subscription. During lockdown they are offering a number of free downloads linked to the liturgical season and lectionary. The broadcasting license has been adapted to permit online worship or personal reflection,  
[www.theworkofthepeople.com](http://www.theworkofthepeople.com)

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## And finally

Thanks to all our contributors. Sharing news and resources with each other is one way we can exercise our collegiality during this strangest of times.

Contributions in Word format please by email to The Rev'd Dr Michael Paterson [cmdcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:cmdcoordinator@gmail.com).

Next edition **Wednesday 13th May**

Back copies are posted on the Diocesan Website Clergy Development Resources page,

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

