



RESOURCING OURSELVES OTHERS

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

Issue 8. 13th May 2020

Around the Diocese



The Rev'd Canon Liz Baker will lead this week's clergy reflection group on 'Lament - The Song between pain and promise' in which she will help us think about our need to lament, to accept the pain this virus has caused in our lives and to our institutions before we move forward. Liz writes: 'Lament is how we tunnel our way to truth, how we look at what has changed us in this time of isolation, how we and our congregations mourn what we have lost but how through recognising and naming the hurt and pain we can once more embrace the challenge and change of the future. The session will include extracts from *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy – Discovering the grace of Lament*' by Mark Vroegop, Crossway 2019. Wednesday 13th May 2020, 1030-1130.

The Rev'd Gerry Dillon, Priest Evangelist, Central Fife Centre of Mission sent in this extract from Lection365. 'I'm uncomfortably aware that the phrase 'to breathe slowly', carries particular significance at the moment. It reminds me that many people are still suffering with coronavirus and may be literally struggling to breathe at all. I need to breathe... remembering that breath is often used as a metaphor for the Holy Spirit and for life itself. I receive this breath. As I calm and quiet myself, I begin to speak in time with my breathing. Perhaps repeating words from the Lord's prayer, or from the My G-d and my all prayer of Francis of Assisi, or the ancient mantra maranatha. I choose a simple prayer that helps me focus on the presence of G-d.'

Lis Burke, Warden of Readers writes 'When I start a new [cross-stitch] design I don't want to risk any thread running out part-way through, so I'm nervous of using the remnants of thread wound onto bobbins, even though I still love many of the colours. This "lockdown" project was planned to use only these remnants, creating "patchwork" designs which only needed a very small amount of each colour and could be adapted if colours ran out. I called it "Gather all the fragments" because it reminded me of the disciples gathering up fragments after the feeding of the five thousand. It's a celebration of all the resources I have but don't dare use for fear of them not being "enough".



Online resources

RevGalBlogPals.org amplifies women's voices as preachers and pastors; offers lectionary commentaries, for both the Revised Common Lectionary and the Narrative Lectionary; prayers, liturgy and music for worship; pastoral and political commentary 'Ask the Matriarch' which invites people with ministry dilemmas to consult a panel of experienced women clergy by email: askthematriarch@gmail.com! Also on Twitter @revgalblogpals!

Churches together in Britain and Ireland CTBI have produced an extensive resource database at <https://ctbi.org.uk/church-responds-to-coronavirus-restrictions/>

The **Church Times** offers this link resources: <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/coronavirus-resources>.

Thy **Kingdom Come** explores how churches, families and individuals can get involved this year in lockdown <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>



Ministry in Lockdown

This YouTube clip humorously invites us to think what kind of pastors we are during Covid-19 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1ww3sNatQg&feature=youtu.be>

Outreach magazine offers a very interesting set of articles related to ministry at this time of global crisis <https://outreachmagazine.com/covid-19-perspectives>

On Redemptive Leadership in Survival Times see

<https://journal.praxislabs.org/strategies-for-winter-redemptive-leadership-in-survival-times-f15a7791035a>



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Prayer and Spirituality

Last Friday, 8th of May, was the feast day of **Julian of Norwich**, an English Mystic of the late fourteenth Century. As an anchoress in isolation she found that Christ transfigured that isolation into a communion of love, an insight that has been an inspiration for many in the current lockdown.

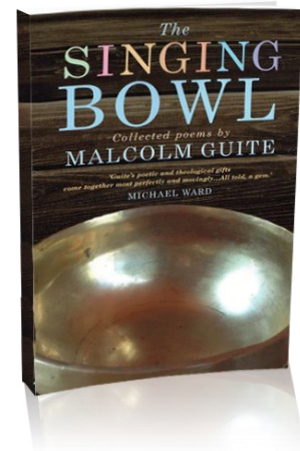
The Rev'd Denise Herbert draws our attention to this extracts from Julian's Showings of Divine Love (68)

'In this last word (Jesus) says with complete assurance – and he means us all – 'You will not be overcome'. All this trusting in the real comfort is meant to be taken seriously for it applies to all my fellow Christians, as I have said before. It is God's will. This word, 'You will not be overcome' was said very distinctly and firmly to give us confidence and comfort for whatever troubles may come. He did not say 'You will never have a rough passage, you will never be over-strained, you will never feel uncomfortable' but he did say, 'you will never be overcome'. God wants us to pay attention to these words, so as to trust him always with strong confidence, through thick and thin. For he loves us, and delights in us; so he will that we should love and delight in him in return and trust him with all our strength. So all will be well.' Revelations of Divine Love, 68.



Malcolm Guite offers this Sonnet for Julian in *The Singing Bowl*, Canterbury Press, 2013

Show me O anchoress, your anchor-hold
Deep in the love of God, and hold me fast.
Show me again in whose hands we are held,
Speak to me from your window in the past,
Tell me again the tale of Love's compassion
For all of us who fall onto the mire,
How he is wounded with us, how his passion
Quickens the love that haunted our desire.
Show me again the wonder of at-one-ment
Of Christ-in-us distinct and yet the same,
Who makes, and loves, and keeps us in each moment,
And looks on us with pity not with blame.
Keep telling me, for all my faith may waver,
Love is his meaning, only love, forever.





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A Blessing from John 14 in a season of coronavirus

Your hearts are troubled,
and it is no sacrilege to let them be so.
Someone you know just entered
God's house
the one with the footprint
of so many rooms
for every faith in the world,
for every child of God,
even the ones who don't think
they have a faith.

Blessed are they
everyone in a place just right,
and prepared so lovingly.

Some are in the chapel
watching the angel rehearsal,
others in a bedroom,
resting after a long, tiring life.

Some are in the kitchen
drinking coffee with grandma,
or are in the yard playing catch
with a dog gone a decade,
or are met on the front porch
by someone running
to wrap them in arms of love.

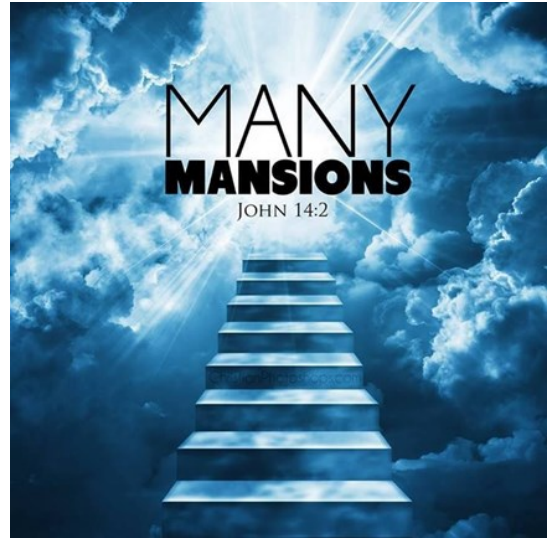
Yes, blessed are they,
but, in our time of coronavirus,
isolated grief, postponed memorials,
Jesus saying —
"I won't leave you orphaned,"
just feels like a lie.

Blessed are you who insist,
like Thomas did, that we don't know
even where Jesus has gone,
so how can we know the way?

For the answer comes.
"Look how I lived — that is the Way.
Listen in your heart —
because even when the religions
try to organize the be-jesus
out of mystery,

I don't tell the heart unTruth.
And trust Life — the one that gave you
those memories of joy,
and the one you keep on living
to your own holy threshold.

"You cannot outrun grief
or outsmart the universal love of God,
but you can hold my hand".



Messages of Hope

In the end I am left only with hope.
I hope the nights are transformative.
I hope every dawn brings deeper love,
for each of us individually and for
the world as a whole. I hope that
John of the Cross was right when
he said the intellect is transformed
into faith, and the will into love
and the memory into - hope.

Gerald May, The Dark Night of the Soul

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even
beyond our vision...This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already
planted, know that they hold future promise...We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities...We are
prophets of a future not our own.

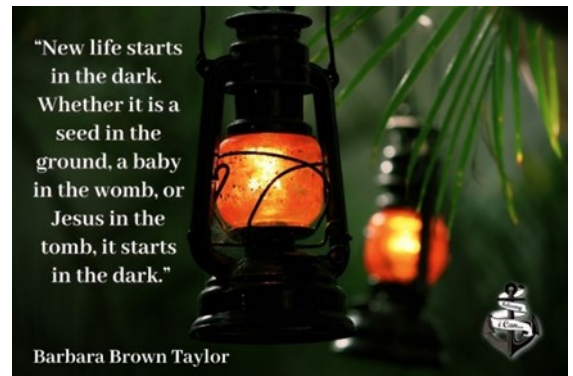
Ken Untener, Preaching Better

Hope locates itself in the premises that we don't know what will happen and that in the spaciousness of uncertainty is
room to act...Hope is an embrace of the unknown and the unknowable.

Rebecca Solnit, Hope in the Dark

Hope is what sits by a window and waits for one more dawn, despite the fact that there is not one ounce of proof in
tonight's black, black sky that it can possibly come.

Sr Joan Chittister OSB, Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope



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.

Next edition **Wednesday 20th May**

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

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

