

Daily Message 2nd April

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing... (Heb 10:25).

These words are rather poignant in the current situation as we are prevented from meeting together – physically that is. We can however meet through social media. So welcome!

The week before the coronavirus really took hold in this country I was at the New Wine Leaders Conference in Harrogate with my colleagues Sue and Christine and others from the area. There were about 1500 people there from all over the country and beyond, and the sense of encouragement that came from that fellowship was tremendous. It's so much easier to be a Christian when your brothers and sisters are around you, urging one another on, as we thought yesterday, and encouraging one another, as we'll think about tomorrow.

And yet people still think that it's possible to be a Christian on your own and not meet with others. We are discovering what that's like at the moment. We have a sort of connection through the social media, emails, and the telephone, but it's not like actually being together. It's like that with our families. Those of you with grandchildren are really missing being able to see them and play with them. Skype or Facetime aren't the same.

The church isn't perfect, but then neither is any family. We have our differences, our quarrels; it's not always exciting, and yet we belong together as the body of Christ – as brothers and sisters of Jesus, as children of God.

Listen to this extract from Nicky Gumbel's book 'Questions of Life' – the basis of the teaching material in the Alpha Course....

I was encouraged – and several of my local clergy colleagues have said the same – to see how many people watched or shared the times of worship that were shown on Facebook or YouTube on Sunday. Probably as many, if not more, than usually come to church on a Sunday. I pray that those people who have joined us in worship will join us when we can use the church building again. And I pray that those of you who regularly gather together on a Sunday or at other times will continue to do so. Some of you may even want to come back and rejoin us because we are poorer without you – and I'm not just talking about money!

We don't know how long it will be before we can meet physically, but when we do let's come together remembering that **we are the body of Christ, and in the one Spirit we were all baptised.**

And so as one body we pray together

Our Father...

Wherever you are, and whatever you are doing today

Go in peace to love to serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.