



Tuesday 14th April

Dear all,

HAPPY EASTER. We hope that this update finds you well and you enjoyed the bank holiday weekend. If you are not well or are in need please do be in touch. We might not be a community that is currently gathering physically, but this doesn't stop us being a community that helps and supports each other. Please do not suffer in silence, but get in touch.

A phrase I keep hearing at the moment is 'Life will never be the same again.' I think this is true. For those of you who have been to another culture you will be aware of 'reverse culture shock' when you come home. As you re-enter you notice both the positives and negatives of the culture you live in for what they really are. When lockdown is lifted, I think for many of us we will suffer from reverse culture shock.

Let me encourage you now to think about what you do and don't like about lockdown. It can be easy to think about what we don't like, but for many of us there will be things we do like too, like chatting to your neighbours or being less busy. We might also be aware of things we have in the past taken for granted like seeing family and we want to be better at doing these in the future.

We see in the Bible, how God is a planner. You can read in Exodus 25 how God gave Moses instructions as to how to build the Ark of the Covenant. The time that Jesus came was meticulously planned so that all the Old Testament prophecies could come true. I believe prayerful planning is important. Can I encourage you to ask God, "How do you want me to live my life once lockdown is over?" "What do you want it to be different?"

We don't know when lockdown will be over, but let's be prayerfully prepared to both put down things and pick up them, as God instructs us.

SERVICES GOING FORWARD

We are thrilled at how many people are participating with our services both from within the church community and those who haven't historically been a part of it. It's really exciting to see how God is using this time to draw others to Him. We will

continue to do a weekly communion at 8pm on a Thursday evening and a Sunday service at 10.30am.

COFFEE TIME

Today, you will have received an email from Sue arranging a coffee via zoom on Thursday afternoon. We are aware that many of you are missing coffee time after church and that space to interact with each other. You get to see James and my face on the screen but we are missing seeing yours. We know zoom is yet more technology and won't be able to involve everybody, but if you are able please do get involved and we will email out the invite on Thursday. If this works well we will do coffee on a Sunday after our service.

THOSE WHO CAN NOT CONNECT ONLINE

We're aware that some of you do not have the ability to join us online and so we have updated our resources for the season of Easter we now find and they are attached. For those of you who can join us, you might find them helpful as part of your personal devotional life. It is a more liturgical resource but the words are beautiful and incredibly powerful.

MARRIAGE COURSE

For those of you who are married, you might want to use this time to invest in your marriage. Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB) are releasing their marriage course for free on a weekly basis. You will just need to purchase a manual. The course is great and very accessible to those who aren't believers. James and I have signed up and would encourage others of you to do so as well. More info can be found at <https://www.htb.org/marriage>

COMMUNICATION

We are trying to ensure that we are checking up on everyone and this is happening through Growth Groups too so do stay in touch with your Growth Group leader. If you're not in a Growth Group, one of us will be in touch to see how you are.

Please know that we are praying for you,

Zara and James

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