

Thank you !

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8

This month continues the strange and difficult 'lockdown' and self-isolating which has seen so much of what was 'normal' turned upon its head. Yet it has seen so many people rise to the challenge and support each other in practical matters and especially in finding ways to keep each other in contact. Thank you.

Computers, of course, make a real difference for many – and we are discovering new benefits of technology and electronic communication – some of which I am sure will continue to be well used long after the present rules are replaced. However, there are many who are not users of computers, and it has been wonderful to see how they have been helped and included during the past few weeks. It would be wonderful if we can continue to be great neighbours and keep good contact with others in our community, especially those who don't have internet access or confidence and live alone – whatever their age.

Finally several people, outside the regular church, have asked me for some words they might use when thinking about the present situation. I don't think I can offer anything better than this short prayer poem from the charity 'Christian Aid'.

*God of heaven and earth,
in these times of isolation,
apart from loved ones
distant from friends
away from neighbours
thank you that there is nothing
in all of creation,
not even coronavirus,
that is able to separate us from your love.
And may your love that never fails
continue to be shared
through the kindness of strangers
looking out for each other,
for neighbours near and far
all recognising our shared vulnerability,
each of us grateful for every breath,
and willing everyone to know the gift
of a full and healthy life.
Keep us all in your care. Amen.*

With thoughts and prayers

Clive Sedgewick

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