

FRAMPTON FOCUS



April / May
2020



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Dear Reader...Keep Calm And Wash Your Hands



Firstly I apologise for the none hand delivery to your very own post box. Covid—19 descended on Lincolnshire and I had to make an editorial decision not to print the magazine. After a quick chat in the local shops, doctors and vets it soon became clear they did not relish people popping in to collect the magazine either. My team of erstwhile deliverers have had a break and to be honest they deserve one! If you are a paying advertiser there is no cost to you for this edition and all editions until the virus releases us once again to wander the leafy lanes delivering and leisurely shopping and picking up a

copy!

I was in two minds about doing an edition at all but I have been bombarded with messages from the NHS and charities so I decided to go ahead. There is no recipe this month and I hope you are all managing to get a steady supply of food. I know they tell you to only shop for basics and not browse but I cant tell you how pleased my husband was when I appeared back home from Lidl with a chocolate bar or two for him and a bottle of Gin for me! In these awful virus ridden times its important to treat yourself, not to get too hooked up in the death totals, try to listen to and read the recovery statistics! Most importantly, stay in contact with each other, use Whats app, the telephone, text, and skype and for apple lovers - face time.



It is amazing how quiet the village is at the St Marys end, so I was quiet shocked when I ventured out to brave the supermarket this week and realised just how busy the roads had become, of course one of those cars was mine—but I only go out once a week and to be honest I really wish I didn't have to! So remember in the words of the media—Hunker Down, stay home, only one trip out of your house a

day, to exercise or buy food or collect medicines. Make sure you keep at least 2 metres apart from people you meet while out and do not go out if you have a cough, a sore throat, a fever or trouble catching your breath. Stay home, stay safe, and wash your hands!!

In the Spirit of staying home , I did this week re download the FoodHub App to my phone. I say re download because I did it a while ago after a trip down to London to see my family and was surprised at how easy it was to order a take away and have it delivered. Imagine my surprise when I down loaded the App and it told me that unfortunately there were no **suppliers available! I put it down to their being “no call for that in the countryside”!!** Well readers I can tell you there were 13 open establishments all local Boston businesses ready to take your order and payment and offer delivery. I suspect that as the days go on there may be a yearning for a burger or something crispy and deep fried so holding that thought I also investigated our more local eateries and discovered that Kirton Cottage is offering meals to re heat and deliver—see their menu in this magazine, The Black Sluice Café are taking orders for Burgers which they will deliver and the County Club have a good selection of pies with veggies and soup and sandwiches if you fancy something a bit smaller. None of us know how long this will go on for and I suspect we will be told at the end of this first 3 weeks that **we have to stay homebound for a little longer and longer....**

I have never been so busy on WhatsApp, friends I usually speak to a couple of times a year are almost daily chatters as are my children who and please don't think me awful but they **usually ring up and start with “Hi mum...I wonder if...”** I do love to hear from them and I long long ago realised that as a puppy never grows up to be independent , your child will always need you, but now they are checking if we are ok! I've spent my increasingly alone minutes/hours/days thinking about things that I normally dismiss, and its been quite therapeutic. My laundry is up to date, my ironing nearly is, I have gone back to making most food offered at meal times from scratch, life has slowed, I do have worries about the loo roll situation and look every time I shop but have so far been unlucky. You can probably imagine my reaction upon hearing my husband (who had ventured into Budgeons at the A16/A17 **roundabout to pay for his petrol) say when he got home....”they had loo roll in there but I didn't buy any “.** There is some leeway in the spirit of not panic buying! There is also so much kindness out there too. A friend phoned yesterday and said she had heard I was short on eggs. Her neighbours hens had laid more than the house needed and she was arranging for them to be dropped off at my gate by someone who was on a legitimate journey! Dear Reader I now have 18 eggs, I have washed them and they are piled up in a bowl and I have **three earmarked for a cake for the two of us for Easter... a couple to be poached for a quick lunch tomorrow and enough spare to make more cake for the hard working NHS staff at the Pilgrim, via the Frampton WI—just in case you still thought all we did was to make Jam and sing Jerusalem.....Oops my other hat slipped on it must be time to leave you to enjoy this months magazine.** Be careful out there.

Vanessa x

Change a Life in Crisis

As the UK faces unprecedented levels of change, people and businesses are facing huge financial pressures, and with families only able to leave the house once a day, animal welfare is becoming a concern.

To help ease some of this pressure, and try to keep spirits up in the community during this time, [Jerry Green Dog Rescue](#) have released some great information on their [website](#). There are enrichment and training activities to help keep your dog's happy and their brains engaged while spending more time indoors, fun things to keep the kids busy, and on their social media channels you can take part in fantastic virtual events including online dog shows, training challenges and quizzes to help pass the time.

Although Jerry Green Dog Rescue is keen to support the community during this time, they do also find themselves asking for support as [Shelley Wilks, Head of Welfare](#) explains: "We need help now more than ever to ensure we are there for the people, families and dogs who are facing difficult times. A huge portion of the income we are able to raise each year to support our [rescue dogs](#) has been wiped out by [Covid-19](#), as events and community activities are cancelled or postponed. We are relying on our supporters now more than ever to ensure we are still here to care for dogs in need when this crisis is over." Jerry Green Dog Rescue believes that no dog should live in kennel for the long term, but when the difficult decision was made to pause rehoming, to protect key staff caring for their dogs, they knew it meant that dogs currently in their care would be there until the crisis has passed. It is a decision no rescue wants to make, these dogs deserve a loving home and a family or best friend. But unfortunately dogs like Bella, Rosie and Ralph now simply have to wait, with their dreams of a loving, forever family put indefinitely on hold. There is a way you and your own dog can support these rescue dogs on their journey to their forever homes, and support Jerry Green Dog Rescue to care for them for as long as is necessary, by becoming a [Jerry Green Dog's Paw Pal](#).

With a £10 one-off donation, you can be the lifeline for a Jerry Green Dog in need. Becoming a Paw Pal isn't just an accolade, you will receive this beautiful sponsorship pack, which includes a tag for your dog's collar or harness, so they can proudly show off their support, as well as a heart-warming story of one of the dogs whose lives they have helped transform. The smart and fun design also makes these packs the perfect gift for loved ones. Become a Jerry Green Dog's Paw Pal today and help change a life, www.jerrygreendogs.org.uk/paw-pals.

Frampton Parish Council

Firstly welcome to the two new Councillors Louise Balgarnie and Andrew Hladun.

Secondly We held our last Council meeting on 19th March 2020 and have put into place emergency procedures including suspending all meetings for a minimum of four months. This is due to Government guidelines in this COVID-19 crisis.

Therefore the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for Thursday 16th April 2020 has been postponed indefinitely. Also the AGM of the Council scheduled for May has also been postponed and current positions will remain in force until such time that we can hold the AGM.

The other official event that was planned in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of VE day (lighting of the beacon) has also been cancelled.

Council business will continue as usual without the monthly meetings. All information regarding Council business is available on the website parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/frampton and the Clerk will issue a monthly newsletter. Frampton Parish Council also have a Twitter account now @ParishFrampton.

Please follow official Government Guidelines and stay safe and well.

Best wishes Cllr Peter Burton and Frampton Parish's Clerk Alison (01205 612894)

2) ENGAGEMENT

Frampton Parish Council would like to offer any help or support that we can to vulnerable residents during this COVID-19 crisis. If you are going to suggest a vulnerable resident to Frampton Parish Council please ensure you get their permission first. The point of contact is Alison the Parish Clerk and you can ring her on 01205 612894 or email: framptonparishcouncil@yahoo.com.

Following Government guidelines remember should you be self isolating you can go into your garden and talk to neighbours as long as you are at a safe distance. At time of writing you can still go outside for walks and again follow the guidelines (which could change on a day to day basis).

Not everyone will have the facilities but it is possible to communicate with friends and family electronically with devices such as Facetime, Skype etc.

3) After Last issues with comments due to fly tipping, rubbish being dumped around our lovely village etc, you will see from the new Boston Borough leaflets that will be landing on your doormat shortly that there has been several successful prosecutions for fly tipping. Please, please if out and about you notice fly tipping try and get details or photographs. Remember you can email flyswat.boston.gov.uk directly and provide details of where the rubbish is dumped. Photos really help! If you have any concerns regarding fly tipping and wish to remain anonymous you can always email or ring Alison on 01205 612894 framptonparishcouncil@yahoo.com

many thanks Alison

Alison Clarke
Parish Clerk
Frampton Parish Council
Tel: 01205 612894



Easter 2020

Newsletter of the Parish Churches of Frampton

..... and suddenly we are in the 21st Century!

Who would have thought, even 3 weeks ago, that the buildings the people of Frampton have been using for more than 800 years would suddenly be closed to us, because of a virus that has travelled around the world in less than 30 days. And because of the closure (temporary we trust) we suddenly find our prayers being shared in homes throughout the village, and beyond, as the act of worship is shared, not through the medium of our ancestors, but through the media of our children and grandchildren!

If you are not yet aware of all that is being 'streamed' from your Parish Church (the people, not the building) then take a look at the Easter card that accompanies this newsletter. Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar, and there are many opportunities for those with smart phones and computers to join and share the experience. But we know that not all of you in the community can access the internet. Our thoughts and prayers are with you especially. All of our services are at 10am, and if you make that your own special time of reflection each day, you will know that you are joining with many others across the village, and the power of prayer becomes magnified and magnificent.

In the non-sectarian world that surrounds us, Easter has become equally important to the business of providing daily employment. Many may suffer as income dries up, or they experience life changing events in their own families or social circle. And yet many more will continue to work on the essential tasks that we rely on, in acts of selfless service to the community. We have radio, television, the telephone, as well as the internet, and those who are told to stay at home have many windows on the world to use, and be aware of the Love that surrounds us all.

What's New?

Perhaps what isn't changing would be more reassuring! Well, we continue to try and find a way to repair the louvres in the spire, an essential task which must be completed before next winter! It would be nice if we could plan the repair during the enforced closure, unless the government changes its mind on construction work. The small businesses of the county are under much strain, and having work to do with minimal contact (forty foot above ground) could be a lifeline. Once we have worked out the finances and how to manage the repairs, the task will take several weeks, but we trust the work will result in a secure spire for another 300 years or so – and the church that has served us for 800 years will continue for our generations to come.



The new Linking Lives UK project for Boston (and for Lincolnshire) being facilitated by Wyberton and Frampton parishes is proceeding slowly due to the restrictions of the pandemic. Nevertheless, the work to identify volunteers (befrienders) and the isolated in our communities continues.

The Collecting Plate

In response to the (not very) many requests for advice on how to continue adding to the church funds in these difficult times, I show below our bank details. We can claim a Gift Aid tax refund on your donations placed in the collection plate, and we can also claim on those transferred through the bank. Details from the treasurer. Meanwhile, you are welcome to transfer your weekly donations to this account.

Name: Frampton PCC. Sort Code 51-81-08; account number 04612396

Did you know? That if you pay tax above the [basic rate](#), you can claim the difference between the rate you pay and basic rate on your donation?

Useful Contacts

Email - sudharshan@wybertonandframpton.org

Browse - <http://www.wybertonandframpton.org/>

Like us - <https://www.facebook.com/Wybertonandframpton/>



During these unprecedented times,
may the Joy of Easter
give you hope!

Easter Week Services April 5th – 12th April

Because of Social Distancing there will be no services in any church this Easter. Here, we will provide On line 'Virtual Services' at 10am on Facebook, as below. The event will also be recorded and may be viewed at a later time*

Sunday 5 th	Palm Sunday Festival of Palms* ¹	Light a candle and join us on Facebook for a short service of Night Prayer at: 7pm Monday-Saturday through Holy Week.
Monday 6 th	Thought for the day	
Tuesday 7 th	Thought for the day	
Wednesday 8 th	Lenten Reflections for Easter	
Thursday 9 th	Maundy Thursday Reflections	
Friday 10 th	Meditations for Good Friday	
Easter Sunday 12 th	Easter Eucharist * ²	

*¹. Following the Palm Sunday Services, Palm Crosses can be delivered to homes. Request by text to 07785 334804 with address details, or email contact@wybertonandframpton.org

*². Following the Easter Eucharist, consecrated wafers can be delivered to homes. Please request as for Palm Crosses, by Thursday 9th.

* Social distancing measures are steps we take to reduce the social interaction between people. This will help reduce the transmission of coronavirus.

The Ministers and Congregations of the Churches of

Wyberton and Frampton
invite you to join in our
Virtual Church Easter Events
on Facebook

www.facebook.com/Wybertonandframpton

Further details are on our website
www.wybertonandframpton.org/worship.htm

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Covid-19 has called a halt for the first time in 15 years to the annual Fosdyke tractor Run.

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Frampton Gardening Club



Well, although the improving weather has certainly brought a smile to the faces of all garden lovers, the Covid 19 situation has certainly not. If there is anything good to be found in our current restricted circumstances, then time to manage our gardens, with the resources we may have already to hand, is abundant.

Before we were all locked down, our February Gardening Club meeting included a talk by Roger Carrot about Boston RSPB Young Explorers. This group is aimed at children aged 6 to 14, with varied activities to interest young people in, and care for, the natural world. The club meets once per month at Freiston Shore Nature Reserve with the hope that in the future, accommodation for them will be built at Frampton Marsh. What a wonderful resource to have locally for families to explore together the wonders of nature—after our movement restrictions are lifted, of course!

So, as with all groups, meetings of the Frampton Gardening Club are currently suspended until further notice. We are missing our old friend Tom Holland with his talk on bringing spring colour to our gardens in March and we await an improvement in the situation and a relaxation in the current social distancing limitations before we can consider where the Gardening Club program will resume.

The scheduled club outing in June to Grimsthorpe Castle is also cancelled as it's impossible to pre-arrange anything at this time. Apologies to all, and we will have to see when we can reschedule this.

An update on Holly, our rescue baby Hedgehog, she is alive and well and still eating us out of house and home. Soon she will no doubt be leaving us to explore the big wide world and eat all those pesky slugs. Well, we can only hope.

Maggie Welberry with edit by Phil Jameson (post Covid 19 restrictions)



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Frampton WI



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Frampton WI is not meeting monthly. We are however still thriving on our Whatsapp Pages for the WI as a whole, the Craft Group and also the Book Club. I suspect a lot of books will be read and discussed over the coming few months. But ladies fear not—we are still very active, members are knitting, (poppies hopefully!) gardening some are keeping a diary of these extraordinary times and some this week baked cakes for the staff of Pilgrim Hospital in Boston. Ronnie had the idea, as her daughter works on Ward 9 which is very high up and not many treats make their way that far—I put the call out to the group on Friday and by Monday, 10 people were ready to have their cakes collected from their doorsteps, so to all of you who managed to get a taste—we really hope you enjoyed it and know how much we all appreciate every single one of you.

We are going to have to rely so much more on social media and technology to keep in touch and entertained. If you know someone who is not hi-tech minded can you keep a special eye out for them, please.

Vanessa Jameson—07955 763473

Val's Handcrafted Greetings Cards for all occasions

Due to the extreme difficulties we are all under, life goes on and to keep myself busy I have been making my Hand crafted greetings cards, no two are alike, which are quite popular, and especially with my carers, and I got to thinking as I now have no other outlets as all craft fairs have been cancelled why not have them for sale in my garden craft room? This will be open during daylight hours, prices from £1.00 All proceeds will be give to the Boston Pulmonary Fibrosis Support group, (who are my lifeline) I will have an honesty box in the shed so needn't come in contact with anyone.. so if you would like to come and browse you are welcome to do so. The shed is right at the end of the drive, well away from the house.

I also have 100's of new serviettes which I can't use anymore because of the varnish and paint that I used to use on my crafts so Fiona and I have sorted them all out and there are 8 of the same design in a pack selling for £1 or 6 in a pack for 70p.

Also I would like to thank everyone for the phone calls etc. enquiring about our health, Rex is doing well, still in remission thank God. He Has now had his cataract op. which is great and can see again. I am holding my own, reliant on 24hr oxygen, but not too bad considering. We are now on 12 weeks isolation because of the breathing situation, but pleased to hear from anyone. I hope my little business proposition will go towards helping others, nothing ventured nothing gained so hope some of you will be able to pay a visit sometime.

Thank you. Val Halgarth



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St Marys 100 Club

The Church draw is coming to the end of its ninth year and I would like to thank everyone who has supported this venture and helped to make it a success. Almost half the money (the maximum allowed in Lottery rules) is given back in prizes and this year over £450 has been raised for Church funds. In this last year we have had 79 numbers taken, so there is still a choice for anyone joining now.

The April draw will be the last one of the 2019-20 year and numbers will be available for the coming year, May `20 – Apr `21, for £1 a month (£12 for the year). I hope that past, present and new members will want to have a number. Subscriptions can be paid monthly, quarterly, or annually – as long as you are paid up, your number will be entered in the monthly draw which is held during the coffee break after the service each 2nd Sunday of the month. You can join at any point in the year. Each month there will be a prize of £25, and in addition there will be an extra prize in December and April.

If you would like to join please let me have your name, address and phone number. Cheques should be made payable to Frampton PCC.

Thank you for your support.

Joan Deane 3, Lighton Avenue, Frampton 722744

February winner £25 no 75 Mrs E. Salkeld

March winner £25 no 66 Mrs G. Peach

Late News – **as there are no services at present at St Mary's I am making alternative** arrangements for the draw. The church insurance alone is £250 a month so fund-raising remains vital.

The draw numbers are on plastic plant labels and my idea is that they can be spread, upside down, on a piece of material on a driveway with the winner being picked by a person using a garden cane. In this way there will be no close contact. The date of the draw will have to be dependent on the weather. I do not make the draw so will need volunteers for this role, also if you would like to offer your drive **as a 'guest host' please get in touch with me. It would be good to have different** venues. As long as we are all suitably distanced spectators will be welcome free of charge! Perhaps some of those numbers which have languished at the bottom of the bag will flourish in the daylight?

Health Watch Lincolnshire

We are forwarding to you information received from East Lindsey District Council.

Martin Lewis (Money Saving Expert) has launched a grant fund pot to support urgent poverty relief and is seeking to distribute to charities and food banks. Applications via short online application, before 25th March 2020:

The Martin Lewis Grant relates to groups in all areas

<https://blog.moneysavingexpert.com/2020/03/i-m-making-p1m-available-to-fund-urgent-small-charity-coronaviru/>

Also, local charities that are seeking funding to offer support for vulnerable East Lindsey residents should also consider approaching their District Councillor to request support - they each have small grants to support their community.

EMAS' response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

I write to give you assurance on the approach taken at East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) to respond to the national and regional daily updates published about the latest situation in the fight against Coronavirus (COVID-19), and to inform you of the steps we are taking to keep our patients and staff as safe as possible.

We are responding to an increase in demand, and working hard to digest what the latest national guidance means for our staff and patients so that we can identify immediate steps to take, whilst recognising some actions make take slightly longer as we review with NHS colleagues the specific ask.

This issue is a huge challenge for EMAS and the NHS, and I want to assure you that we are responding by using national guidance (created from learning from other countries and expert advice), by what we find as the situation develops, and by using our approach to similar viruses eg flu and previous pandemics (see the national plan for more detail).

How we are managing this issue at EMAS

I and my Executive team continue to take part in national and regional discussions and planning events to determine our next steps, and to aid our service to get what it needs. There are no new/extra people to help us deal with this, so we have set up roles and responsibilities to:

- focus on priorities
- ensure we follow national guidance (particularly around the use of personal protective equipment and cleaning)
- support staff who need to self-isolate, and
- plan for scenarios around increased abstraction (staff unable to work).

We have a Coronavirus Incident Room which continues to operate seven days a week, and a Strategic Commander who operates between 08.00 and 20.00 hours every day - we will keep reviewing this to identify if/when this needs to be increased to cover additional hours.

Ben Holdaway (Director of Operations) is the EMAS Emergency Accountable Officer and Peter Ripley (Assistant Director of Operations) is the Senior Responsible Officer for this issue. They are supported by members of our management team to focus on emergency preparedness and resilience, operational response, and our Emergency Operations Centre (control).

Internal communications and staff wellbeing is one of our key priorities and we are providing regular updates to our staff and volunteers, including updated frequently asked questions and answers.

Understandably staff and volunteers are anxious about current events and my briefings aim to assure them that whilst there is no history on Coronavirus to fall back on to tell us what to do, the safety of our staff and patients is a key priority and we are doing everything we can, working together with our partner agencies and key stakeholders, to protect the people we are here to care for.

Our responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004

This week I have written to system leaders across the wider NHS to advise that for the foreseeable future we will not be participating in any external commitments or meetings other than those laid down under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the reason being is that we need to do everything possible to protect core services.

At this stage I have advised my Director of Operations that all operations staff and managers will not be able to participate in external meetings until further notice in order to protect frontline NHS Ambulance Services. EMAS colleagues in other teams will be able to engage with stakeholders using remote facilities where they are available.

However, I reserve the right to change this if colleagues are redeployed to further support frontline services.

This decision will not impact on our ability nor commitment to engage with statutory requirements aligned to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, eg participation in Local Resilience Forums. Given our regional footprint it may be that our attendance to certain meetings; including strategic level meetings, will be via teleconference facilities.

As more and more people are being asked to stay in-doors and isolate themselves there will be lots of vulnerable people who will need help.

Paul Johnson, Public Health Officer for Lincolnshire County Council, is trying to pull together a list of groups and organisations that are able to respond to anyone needing help as a result of being in isolation?

If you know of any support being offered e.g. shopping for people, pubs delivering meals, or anything else that might help?

please could you contact Paul directly (details below) to let him know what it is and where so that he can collate this in one place, once collated he will share and this can be circulated to all.

Contact detail for Paul are as follows:

Paul Johnson – Keeping People Connected

Public Health Officer,

Public Health Division,

Adult Care and Community Wellbeing,

Lincolnshire County Council,

Holmeleigh,

Foundry Street,

Horncastle, LN9 6AQ.

Tel: 07778552296

Email: paul.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk



Kirton Cottage

15 High Street, Kirton, PE20 1DR

tel:01205 722311

bookings@kirton-cottage.co.uk

TakeAway/Delivery Menu

Main Course

Roast Beef £8.00

Roast Lamb £10.00

Pork Medallions, Mushroom and Apple Sauce £12.00

*Pan Fried Chicken Breast, white wine and Tarragon Sauce
or BBQ sauce* £12.00

Roasted Vegetable Wellington £10.00

Pan Fried Salmon Fillet, parsley sauce £14.00

*All mains are served with Seasonal vegetables, Roast or
New potatoes and all meals will need to be reheated in
microwave.*

Dessert

Pecan Pie with cream £4.00

Banoffee Pie with cream £4.00

*Delivery is offered to people who are in self
quarantine, keeping the 2m distancing.*

*Delivery Charge is £2.00 for a local distance
in a 2 miles radius. More distant delivery is
available and will be costed individually.*

Whatsap Diary of an Ordinary Frampton Family...

In the peaceful sleepy village of Frampton, just three miles south of the once bustling Market town of Boston, we stumble across a perfectly ordinary family of the village, communicating with each other via their personal phones and the medium of Whatsap, during their enforced isolation due to the pesky Covid—19

Day 1

Dad: We went to the farm shop yesterday which was quite civilised and most of their stuff still on the shelves. However in the checkout queue, the lady behind mum got too close, and mum is very protective about her personal sterile zone. She back heeled the woman in the shins, the woman hopped about a bit and made a fuss so mum followed up with an elbow to the solar plexus, and that quietened her down. I shopped on my own today and had no trouble.

Daughter: Gosh maybe mum shouldn't go shopping anymore.....

Dad: So now im going to walk the dogs with mum each day as our once per day exercise. I actually think im quite safe as mum is quite emphatic about maintaining our two metre safety zone as she now has a 2.5 metre sharpened stick to fend off all interlopers.

Day 2

Dad: Today the wine Society informed Mum that they cannot deliver the 19 bottles of red she ordered last week. I have had to physically restrain her from driving down to Stevenage and storming the warehouse. We will be **ok as I have a secret stash of cab sauv I haven't told her about....**

Day 3

Dad: This morning mum went to the doctors to pick up prescription tablets and popped to the co op to get bread etc. When she came home she **honestly said to me "I was very good, I didn't start a fight!"** Apparently a guy in wellingtons knocked into her as she waited for the check out, and she had to tell him to keep his distance—or else. Honestly, if I do go out with mum im totally safe from Coronavirus, just at risk of getting beaten up.

Mum: Dad is insisting on cleaning the gutters, Ive told him its too cold for me to hold the ladders, hes promised not to do the high ones—Ive told him if he does and he falls Im not taking him to the hospital.

Day 4

Dad: In the first week of lockdown we have used two whole loo rolls. Mum believes that she has only used half of one roll and that I have used one and a half. She has now divided our stash into two and locked her half away. She therefore has enough to last till June and mine will be consumed by April. I'm thinking of similarly dividing the wine, in which case my half will last until Christmas and mums will be finished by Easter.

Daughter in law: Are you two going to be ok?

Dad: Were doing great although mum is telling me there is not enough room in the kitchen for both of us....

Day 5

Mum: Lockdown does not come without its trials.... And it is difficult spending 24 hours a day with someone who believes himself to be always right...

Dad: Im not always right , but I am rarely wrong.

Mum: Remember darling if you run out of loo roll you are not having first shot at minethink on.....

And there we must leave this perfectly ordinary family, enjoying their quite enforced isolation until next time when once again we can peep into their not so private Whatsap.



The Message for Easter 2020

Easter Greetings!

“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo.

“So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

(J R R Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring)

Dear all,

We are living in unprecedented times; we have never before seen a global catastrophe such as this in our life time. However, long before I read Tolkien, **Frodo’s thoughts crossed my mind, when as a teenager I lived in Sri Lanka during the civil war.**

I remember the number of times we had to leave our home and move into the school nearby for days, and endure constant bombing and shelling. Not enough food or medical facilities, no electricity, no phones or internet, struggling to bury the dead every day and more stuff that I cannot say here. I still think of the times when the adults had to manage with drinking plain tea, making sure we children had one meal of boiled rice for days. When we stepped out after the curfew was lifted either shops were damaged by bombing or what was left were looted.

The first time we evacuated, I still remember the first shell that was fired, landed on the roof of the building we were in just as we were saying the **Lord’s Prayer. Everyone screamed, and my father, who was also an ordained minister, told us to be calm.** Sporadic shelling continued, and those who were sheltering in the surrounding buildings started screaming and running everywhere. My father went out in the midst of the shelling, and managed to get everyone back in the buildings. By the grace of God not a single person was injured that night.

The only thing that kept us sane and safe through those horrible days were our ever faltering faith in God and a wicked sense of humour. We kept singing hymns, reciting Psalms, reading the Scriptures and praying. One could play card games for only so long. This time we are facing an enemy that we cannot see. However, God can, and he is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Couple of Psalms come to mind, they are Psalm 23 and 91. The Psalmist says in **23:4 “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (ESV).** In **Psalm 91:9&10 it says, “Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent (ESV).** Keep reading these Psalms and claim these promises for yourself and look to the Saviour **Christ Jesus who gave his all for us. God says in Isaiah 45:22 “Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other” (ESV).** It is my hope and prayer that in the midst of all this, you will encounter the Risen Christ this Easter, who will give you his peace and protection.

If you are anxious or worried and want to chat please call me. I do not have all the answers, but willing to listen.

Take care and stay safe! God bless you.

Sincerely

Your friend and pastor

Sudharshan

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