

27th June 2020

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Dear Friends

Did you hear about the houses falling in love? It was a lawn-distance relationship?

Terrible joke, I know! It might be due to the combination of social distancing and all the restrictions affecting my brain!

It has been a pleasure, though, to go walking most days – a gift of exercise, fresh air, possible meeting familiar faces and a healthy rhythm to each day and it would be great to keep that going as things hopefully get back to a more usual pattern of life.

Another pleasure when out walking for me is to see so many different sorts of dogs. Last week in my letter I shared about hair and prayer. Today let me share a story that is about dogs and prayers. Warning – it is a bit hair-raising!

An Air Ambulance Service pilot radioed the hospital ahead that he was bringing in Joan, a farmer in her 40s, who had had an encounter with a chain saw and was in danger of losing her arm. Gabi was the chief nurse heading up the triage team. When Joan arrived, she was losing blood rapidly and the team caring for her had two priorities – first, to keep her alive, and second, to save her arm. As they swung into action, Joan seemed not to be listening to instructions, and her mind seemed elsewhere. Gabi was puzzled and prayed ‘Why, Lord?’ She felt God prompt her, ‘Ask her.’ Gabi asked Joan what was going on in her mind and the reply came, ‘There is no one to look after my dogs tonight.’ Gabi replied, ‘We’ll sort that.’ One of the team got in touch with Joan’s emergency contact and immediately she began to stabilize.

Joan lived. The team saved her arm. The dogs were fed. Gabi went home thanking God for his help and inspiration.

When things get tough – and even when they’re not – lets ask God in, and then look out for how he is helping

- at home
- at work
- or wherever ...

There is no such thing as an ordinary day for a Christian. With Christ, every day, every task, every situation, every relationship brims with divine possibility. God is always at work But can we see it?

General news

- Our new curate: Julia Pratt is being licensed this Sunday (28th) by Bishop Paul and starts her ministry here this week. This Sunday's service includes a film clip from Bishop Paul and one of me praying for her in our garden in the rain.
- Opening church for services: Bishop Paul has written the following: our response to the virus in this Diocese is: 1) local decisions are right for local contexts, and 2) safety and assurance come first. At the moment we have no immediate plans for opening, and are looking at advice and guidelines regularly in consultation with others.
- Thanks: once again, thank you to those who have already responded generously to our financial appeal. If you haven't done so already, please do prayerfully consider how you can respond.

Prayer list

All those who are ill at home, in hospital, and those in particular need of prayer at this time including: Pat Bancroft, Ben Constance, Jennie Lovegrove, Audrey Neile, Olive Oxby, Evelyn Penny and Suzanne Stanley.

The family and friends of all those who have recently died especially: Cath Forrest, Olive Cutts and Geoff Taylor.

A prayer

May the Father who loves you,
The Son who sends you,
The Spirit who empowers you,
Be with you and bless you,
Wherever you are, whatever you do,
Whoever you're with,
To His praise and glory. Amen

With every blessing

Kip