

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As our lockdown continues, we continue to work for God's kingdom, learning to adapt just as the first disciples did in those momentous days after the first Easter.

On Sunday John spoke of the disciples being in a form of 'lockdown' when Thomas was not with them (possibly on essential business?) and how Jesus appeared amongst them despite the locked door.

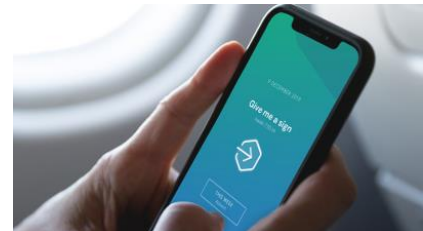
It reminds us that Jesus promised that he would never leave us nor forsake us (see Hebrews 13:5 as well as Joshua 1:5!) and that even in our isolated, locked down situation, the Holy Spirit remains present.

RESOURCES

We are encouraged to find new or different ways to meet with God and there are a wealth of resources available.

One helpful app is the Lectio 365 from the 24/7 Prayer team.

Written by leaders from the 24-7 Prayer movement, and produced in partnership with CWR, this resource helps you engage with Scripture to inspire prayer and shape your life.



Lectio 365 is inspired by Lectio Divina, a way of meditating on the Bible that's been used by Christians for centuries.

- P.R.A.Y. - Each day, Pause to be still. Rejoice with a Psalm and Reflect on Scripture. Ask for God's help, and Yield to His will in your life.
- SIX PRACTICES - Each week focuses on one of 24-7 Prayer's core values - six practices that help us live like Jesus –
prayer, mission, justice, creativity, hospitality and learning.
- READ or LISTEN ON THE GO - Both text and audio options are available and you can download up to a week in advance to read or listen to later.
<https://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional>



MORNING PRAYER

Some of us meet on ZOOM on a Monday and Tuesday morning to say Morning Prayer together and you would be welcome to join us – please [email](#) the office for the login details.

We use the app on a phone or tablet (free on the Apple or Google stores – search for ‘Daily Prayer’ to find the logo as on the picture here!) although the text is also on the Church of England website.

COFFEE (or TEA) on Sunday Morning

Several of us have met for a chat over coffee on the last 2 Sundays.

It is fairly straight forward and uses ‘ZOOM’ – either by clicking on the link

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71167730270> or using this meeting ID if you have the app on your computer/tablet/telephone **711 6773 0270**

CHILDREN

Wondering about how to engage your (younger) children?

Perhaps trying some home schooling?

YouVersion has published some good tips on helping them adapt to the ‘new normal’.

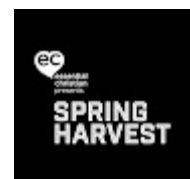
<https://blog.youversion.com/2020/04/3-ways-to-help-your-kids-adjust-to-the-new-normal/>

GODLY PLAY videos from Lena are available on the church YouTube as well as the excellent re-enacting of the story of the Breakfast on the Beach which was part of Tuesday’s Messy Church.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCopwyXTvmHCMOUSKeJf6YQ>

Spring Harvest had some AMAZING videos for their Spring Harvest Home week after Easter, and at the moment most are still available – although some will be removed at the end of April. <https://www.youtube.com/user/SpringHarvest/playlists>

There is material age appropriate for 0-4, 5-7, 8-11 11-14 and 14-18 year age groups, as well as All Age.



Why not have a look? The new song, [GLOW](#), is excellent and one we will no doubt be learning at St Matthias.

LOCAL



There is a new RADIO station that has launched (quietly) in the Bay -

RIVIERA FM on 107.9

Food Deliveries

As you will know, a number of local businesses have adapted their working practices to continue to provide services.



Many of you will know Becky and Paul Stacey and their children, Ben and Chloe.

Paul has begun to offer a fresh fish delivery service in Torquay, so if you would like some then you can contact him either by email at paul@no7-fish.com or by telephone on 01803 295055.

A reminder of the Community Helpline:

Staff at Torbay Community Development Trust (TCDT), Ageing Well Torbay (AWT) and Brixham Does Care are working with voluntary groups across the Bay and have set up a phone line for people in need of help because of illness or isolation and also for those that are prepared to offer help.

Covering Torquay and Paignton the number to call is [01803 446022](tel:01803446022).

We continue to try to work out how best we can serve one another and continue to be Church, and are so grateful to those who are keeping in contact with those who are more isolated and may be not able to manage the technology that we are having to use.

It has been suggested that some people may have redundant tablets or smartphones which, if factory-reset, could be offered to those in the Church who don't have them. Please let us know if (a) you have such device and would be happy to offer it and (b) are technically able to offer step-by-step guidance on how to use such a device to a novice!

I was reminded by both Alick and by Pete Grieg (on the Lectio 365) of Solomon's prayer in 2 Chronicles 6 and the Lord's response to him in 2 Chronicles 7:

¹¹When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD... ¹²the LORD appeared to him at night and said:

"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. ¹³When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴**if** my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, **then** I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Keep safe, stay at home and be a blessing.

Paul and John