

As we begin May, the lockdown continues. It's been a difficult time for all of us, but it's important also to look to some positives. In particular, living in such an area filled with the signs of spring has been a joy on daily exercise. The bluebells have been amazing; the sky is bluer than I've ever seen it before and the clear night sky has been full of stars – as well as meteors and trains of satellites! The Psalms of the Bible speak of the beauty of creation. Psalm 8 invites us to consider the heavens; the moon and the stars as part of God's creation speak of the majesty of a creator who cares about what happens to his creation, spoiled by humanity since the beginning.

Before the lockdown, our Wednesday evening homegroup was looking at the issue of how we restore creation to the way God made it, focusing on Ruth Valerio's book 'Saying yes to life'. We've not been able to meet, though we might soon through the wonders of Zoom! Ruth has written a reflection on Covid19 - see https://www.tearfund.org/en/2020/03/decoding_coronavirus/ where she writes 'Coronavirus is not a natural disaster. It is a disaster of our own making'. She goes on to say that the way the virus has spread from one species to another, and was spread throughout the world all point to human frailty. Yet we've also seen how communities have responded positively, helping each other and supporting health and other essential workers in all sorts of practical and prayerful ways. Long may this continue, especially when the lockdown is slowly released.

Positive too has been the growth of online church services, not just here at Cudham and Downe which you can find every Sunday at our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PCDChurches/> but throughout the world. It's well worth doing an online search and seeing what's out there!

For Christians, we are still in the season of Easter – a season where despondent people discover new hope as the Risen Lord Jesus meets them in their grief and transforms them by his presence. That Easter hope still remains true, and is even more important today than ever.

I am here for you – practically and spiritually – don't hesitate to call me on 07504827929, 01959540012 or email vicar@pcd.org.uk

With renewed Easter Blessings and prayers,
John