

As we approach Easter, the message of '*Alleluia! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*' couldn't be more needed. These are unprecedented times and we write to offer you our prayers and support in relation to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

This year as we journey through Holy Week together, it will have a different feel and perhaps we will find ourselves connecting with the emotions of Holy Week in a way we might not have done before. At times like this, I try and remind myself that the Resurrection historically has already happened and we are people of the Resurrection; we already live in the light of the Resurrected Christ and that light is what will guide us through these challenging times, which may at times feel quite dark.

The priest and author Barbara Brown Taylor has written a fantastic book called *Learning to walk in the dark*. She challenges the common interpretation that darkness equals bad and light equals good. She believes that we need both. We can learn things in the dark, which we cannot learn in the light. Learning to walk in the dark forces us to rely on our other senses. The perspective changes. When we come back into the light – we see things differently. We have grown as a person, discerned new things about ourselves and gained new insights.

I think as church we are now relying on our other senses, learning to do things differently and to see things differently - what it means to be church in the community when there is no gathered worship in a building. I believe we will learn things about ourselves, about our neighbours, about compassion and kindness and about the stranger. When we come back together as a worshipping community, we may see things differently, afresh and with a new perspective.

It has been announced by the Church of England that all acts of worship and church events are to be suspended until further notice with the exception of Funerals at a Graveside or Crematorium, attended by immediate family.

Until further notice all meetings including PCC's and APCM's will be suspended and further guidance will be given on revising dates in due course.

We are very conscious that over the coming weeks, you may yourself need to self-isolate in order to stay healthy and well or be at home a lot more than normal with many clubs and social groups having to cancel. Our main priority as a Ministry Team is to keep in touch by telephone and e-mail as much as possible and to be available to help you in any way we can, whether that be practically, emotionally or spiritually. Please contact Canon David (01326 572516), Revd. Kirsten (01326 573069) or your Churchwardens if you need help in anyway.

If you are online and have an e-mail address, please drop Revd. Kirsten an e-mail at kirsten-norfolk@hotmail.co.uk Equally, if you are online and would like help setting up an e-mail address in order to use Social Media, Revd. Kirsten can give advice on this. Please look out for the new 'United Benefice of West Kerrier' Facebook page!

We end this letter with the words of St Teresa of Avila, which encapsulates what it means for all of us to be part of the body of Christ in this place:

*Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.*

*Yours are the eyes through which
he looks compassion on this world.*

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Amen.

Blessings,

Canon David and Revd. Kirsten