



### 3 major employment sectors:

- **Agriculture, fishing, forestry, horticulture:** still of great importance
  - new potatoes and daffodils are major crops
  - Brixham; Newlyn and Plymouth have the 3 largest fishing fleets in England
- **Tourism:** is now in shutdown and visitors are not welcome
  - from boutique hotels to Glamping contributes £5 billion to economy
  - M5 is often just a means of getting to a traffic jam into Devon & Cornwall
- **Food production:** Cornish pasties; Devon cream teas; Somerset cider and cheese; Wrigleys and Dairy Crest and several breweries

### PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

There are some unique features about the South West but we're facing many of the same issues as everyone else

#### ☐ **Coronavirus:**

- Thankfully least affected area in England: 1,384 registered cases; sadly 59 deaths; challenge not to be complacent
- Aging population susceptible to infection: my wife and I both have mums in their 90's; wife has great aunt 107!
- Dignity and funerals: problems with celebrating life; crematoria limited to 2 mourners!
- Carers under attack: Torbay Caring company forced to employ security guards to protect workers
- Shopper works suffering abuse from customers
- Gratitude: e.g. Clap for Carers; pray for kindness, compassion and thankfulness for those serving on the front-line

#### ☐ **Isolation:**

- Because much of the SW is at the end of country it feels as if we're already "cut off" – farmers often working alone but the crisis has added to the feeling of isolation
- Often elderly are unable/incapable to access IT; lack of broadband in SW; Example: Church in Brixham – a younger lady living 2 doors away from an elderly neighbour found her broadband service reached the older person's house so she gave her an old smartphone and she is using it for the first time to meet link into the church Zoom services!
- Visitors aren't welcome currently but we will need them back as soon as possible. Some in the Tourism sector are offering refunds because they may not be in business next year
- Churches and neighbours befriending and assisting others; spirit of friendliness as people talk to each other as they pass one another

#### ☐ **The Church:**

- The message hasn't changed but the methodology has
  - challenge: will we go back to "business as usual" when restrictions end or will we continue to be innovative in order to reach people with the Gospel?
  - will we continue with the prayer focus? Let's not let it slip
- New ways of "doing church" – live broadcasts of services; Zoom; YouTube; telephone based pastoral activities; cards through letterboxes offering assistance
- God's glory, honour and fame  
Habakkuk 3:2 (NIVUK): ***"LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy."***  
I'm not saying Coronavirus is God's wrath but have we failed to demonstrate His glory and honour? Thankfully He is a loving, merciful God  
James 2:13 (NIVUK): ***"Mercy triumphs over judgment."***