

Dear all

One of the difficult things to maintain over a period when our usual activities are curtailed or cancelled is a sense of order in our lives. Usual habits and practices are lost when the structure we expect and depend upon is no longer there.

Historically the church has had a structure since earliest times. St Benedict in his rule set 7 specific periods during the day for prayer. Thomas Cranmer combined 4 of these into 2, Morning (Matins & Lauds) and Evening (Vespers and Compline) Prayer when he created the Book of Common Prayer in 1549. Common Worship retains these 2 services, which vicars are obliged to celebrate daily, as well as adding 2 optional services – ‘Prayer During the Day’ (midday-ish) and Compline (or Night Prayer). I would heartily recommend making at least one of these part of daily devotions. The services are available on an app, or at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

If anyone has anything they would like to share with others in church, I would be happy to add them to my posts.

On a lighter note, a little thought for the day... written by an old teaching colleague.

Daffodils - Covid 19 version

With apologies to Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud

That floats on high o'er vale and hills,

When all at once I saw a crowd,

Two people and some daffodils;

They hardly dared exchange a glance

And dared not make an utterance.

Two people, who stood yards apart

Their arms stretched out, but not entwined,

Their fingers shaped to form a heart -

Oh, Covid, thou art most unkind!

But Spring knows nothing of ill-health

And still brings Nature's glorious wealth.

He plucked a golden daffodil

And cast it on the dancing breeze.

I saw her eyes with pleasure fill.

She caught the token with great ease.

Two lovers near, yet far away.

The rules of distance they obey.

How much should humans take the blame?

We raped our world for selfish greed.

'Tis time to recognise, with shame,

The outcome of our heinous deeds.

What wisdom can all people find

That's greater yet than being kind?

Chris R

Stay safe.

Blessings

Mark