

Thought for the Month

December 2020

Keeping in touch is one of the challenges we have all been facing as we deal with the risks and uncertainties of the Coronavirus pandemic. Our freedom has been constrained. We have limited choice of movement and of ability to spend time with friends and family. We have not been able to share prayer and worship in the usual ways.

This has been hard and isolating for many of us. For some it means an prolonged period of separation, bringing loneliness and an increasing fear of going out. Yet, as the weeks and months passed we have found other ways to keep in touch and support each other including sharing times of prayer and worship.

Times of isolation have been the experience of Christians over the centuries. St Paul had to travel many miles to have direct encounter with new communities of Christians and letter writing was an important way of sharing faith and nurturing new Christian communities. Even when imprisoned Paul still managed to reach out to keep in touch with, guide and encourage new and growing Christian communities.

Today churches are finding new ways to keep in touch with church members, when coming together for prayer or worship is not possible, we are all exploring how we can use technology to good effect to enable shared prayer and worship.

At Holy Trinity we are exploring what we can do to sustain and further enable prayer and worship. Our steps are slow but purposeful. It has been encouraging to get feedback from people who are isolated in their home, but value being able to feel connected with us by seeing the All Souls Service and the short service on Advent Sunday, both of which we recorded and shared.

We now have our own Holy Trinity Longlevens YouTube channel, through which we can continue share services whether recorded or streamed live. All this can help enable the fruitfulness of shared prayer and worship through Holy Trinity.

During the 1st Century AD St Paul recognised the importance of sharing letters and using couriers. In the 21st Century we are growing our understanding of how we can nurture each other using people and technology to come together to pray and worship, nurturing afresh our understanding of how to be the body of Christ.

Gwyneth