

Dear friends,

Much love and continued prayers from the Rectory at St Mary's Newick.

Thank you to Andy Rees for our opening hymn, to readers Ian Reekie & Mel Balloch, prayers from Mandy Stockwell & our editor Josh Stockwell

Tune into Ali this morning at 10am this morning with more stories and fun and crafty ideas for this Sunday

Our service this morning is available on the Church website under services

<https://newickchurch.org/services-2/>

or here by clicking on the Vimeo link below

(You don't have to download Vimeo to open the link) just click on here:

<https://vimeo.com/411796990/4d4a631a3d>

[Welcome to our Sunday Service 26th April 2020 .pdf \(3,565K\)](#)

This week in our news we have heard a lot of numbers; numbers of weeks in lockdown, estimates of coming out, predictions of financial catastrophe, affected cases and of course the news from around the world of the ever increasing number of deaths from Covid-19 or its associated fatalities.

Whenever we hear these huge numbers, behind every one is a personal story, and our hearts go out to those who grieve or who are suffering. These cases are even harder to comprehend when we hear of the deaths of those who have led sacrificial lives caring for others. We are told that many are suffering from post traumatic stress as witnesses of this pandemic.

Our readings today give us two insights into the trauma and hope that occurs when coping with grief. Two of Jesus followers were in suffering the effects of PTSD when they set off on the seven mile walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They had seen their hopes in Jesus shattered and they had seen him cruelly put to death on the cross. Those who have lost somebody they love will know something of the pain and distress of bereavement, the shock is real and no amount of expectation can prepare us for the separation which follows.

It was at that time, when all optimism was lost, that Jesus spoke to these disciples. As Jesus spoke to them they realised who he was and through their grief and loss they had their hope reawakened.

Those of us who are seeking reassurance and hope at this time should read this story and perhaps discover anew the sense of anticipation which those disciples found, that all would be well.

In our Acts reading Peter is further down the line, he has met with the Risen Christ and now his hope is renewed. His encouragement is now to share this Good News with others before it's too late.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "No one has the responsibility of turning the world into the kingdom of God, but only of taking the next necessary step that corresponds to God's becoming human in Christ." (Ethics, p. 224-225). That is what faith is, living now in the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not yet seen as we prepare to receive our inheritance, the kingdom, that God has prepared for us.

If we take up Bonhoeffer's challenge, then we can learn what it means to abide in a church whose practices teach us to love the world more than the world loves itself.

The service will be available on Facebook from 10am you can follow with the service sheet attached and you would be most welcome to come along to Zoom Cafe after the service at 11.15 by clicking on the link below.

Sorry to say it's BYO Coffee, Sherry or Elderflower cordial

Followed by a Zoom Café at 11.15.

Paul Mundy is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Church Cafe

Time: Apr 26, 2020 11:15 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89895207438?pwd=VHN3TEN1aCtwczlRU01CaXdqdmwzQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 9520 7438

Password: 028539

Much love to you all, stay in touch, stay safe, stay well
& where possible stay at home.

Paul x