

27th April 2020

Hello everyone, I hope you are all keeping well and purposefully occupied.

I say purposefully because being occupied on its own isn't necessarily a good thing. It is possible just to fill our time with things that are not that helpful to our health and well being and clearly that's not good. Just marking time may serve only to make us more aware that things aren't normal and that can lead to a sense of loss not unlike bereavement, the sense that our 'normal' life has been taken away from us.

Purposeful use of our time, however, is very good. Undertaking things that have real meaning, a point to doing them, is very good.

For example there are many people at present repurposing their skills in order to help others. Manufacturers are setting up to make things that they wouldn't normally make, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the NHS and other front line workers. Community groups are organizing practical help and support for each other, rather than just being talking shops or advertising spaces for local events. There are so many positive things going on that, if it were not for the current situation with C-19 and the lockdown would otherwise not be happening. We should take this opportunity to give thanks to God that the inherent goodness of people is finding a way to express itself in these difficult times. Of course there will be those who seek to exploit the situation for their own ends but let's 'accentuate the positive' as the song says and celebrate the good we see around us.

And finally... these from Chris Anderson!

If all the world is a stage, where do the audience sit?

Men do cry, but only when assembling furniture from ikea.

Do you want to hear the joke about the bed? Well you can't, It hasn't been made yet.

Yikes, I fear there is worse to come!

Sent by Canon Tom Page

Vicar: Ascension with All Saints

Chelmsford

(AwAS)