

7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Greetings once more dear friends.

One thing we seem to have a lot of at present is time.

From being people who are often very busy, with lots of things going on in our lives, we have had to significantly shrink the number of things we are able to engage in. This has made us time rich but opportunity poor. We have lots of time, so how do we spend it?

It's an interesting question, which came to mind a couple of days ago during a phone conversation I was having. Why do we talk about our use of time using the same kind of language that we use when speaking of money? Well now we are all 'Time Rich', we all have plenty to spend but under restricted conditions, so how do we do that in ways that are productive and useful? We all have a very healthy balance of time in our accounts now but limited ways in which to spend it. It's rather like being a Billionaire, who has all the cars, houses, clothes, holidays and 'stuff' he wants or thinks he needs but what does he do with the rest of his money?

What we choose to spend our time on may tell us a lot about ourselves and the kind of people we are. Do we just fritter our time away, or do we become inventive and find new ways to stimulate our minds and keep ourselves spiritually and mentally healthy? Well, I'm looking at option two!

The first couple of weeks during this time of social isolation have been challenging. Making sure our congregation members are all OK and that the lines of communication are open has been a real test of how well we cope as a church family. We have a bank of volunteers ready to help with shopping or phoning people to keep in touch. This little e-mail has helped an increasing number of people feel connected with what's going on and a little less isolated than they might do otherwise.

I have had a very steep learning curve with technology but can now Skype, Facetime, Zoom and Livestream on Facebook (with varying degrees of success). My concern, however, is that it's still early days and the diminished amount of contact we have with others has yet to really begin taking its toll. This means that we have to stay alert to the things that stimulate, entertain, enliven and enrich us. We need to be daring and try new things, unafraid to take some risks. Yes, of course we'll mess some things up (that's what human beings are good at!) but it's in the trying, the exploring and the learning that we will find growth and health. We cannot let this current situation dictate to us

what we are or what we may be, we have to rise to the challenges it offers and Spend! Spend! Spend! our time wisely and well. And if you're worried about your credit, don't, your account will be full again tomorrow.

And finally...Why will it be difficult to get Christmas presents delivered this year?

Because of s-elf isolation

Sent by Canon Tom Page  
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