

1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Good morning friends, I've been thinking (dangerous, I know) about how we communicate the Gospel in these times and how people are all too quick to try and 'do down' the efforts of our churches. If we use technology we're just 'trying to be trendy' if we don't then we're 'not with the times' or 'irrelevant'. Whatever we do we can't seem to win.

The other day I saw an article that suggested the statistics showing how many people were viewing online services by the church were misleading. The reasoning behind this was, that someone only has to view your church service for a few seconds before they are added to the viewing figures. Thus when we look at how many people engaged in an online service it was very misleading. My response, 'Who cares?' It has never mattered how many people attend a service, physically or virtually 'We are few but Thou art here' as the saying goes or 'Wherever two or three are gathered together, there am I also'. The fact of the matter is that people are gathering to worship God, it's never been a numbers game.

The thing that I took from the article was this, it really doesn't matter how long someone 'tunes in' for it's the fact that they clicked the button to look in the first place. What was it that made them take a glance, however fleeting, at a church service online? In all likelihood they'd never poke their heads round the door of a church building on a Sunday. Something in the security of distance allowed people in for a peek, a little glimpse at what those funny Christians get up to. Nobody made them, they weren't forced, cajoled or bribed to view, however long they stayed. No, something deeper made them take the step to click 'View' and some of them (it doesn't matter how many) may have stayed or may have come back another time.

There is a need in people to seek. That's why every generation has had its explorers, scientific discoverers, philosophers. People are seeking something. They may not know what but the lockdown has given many the time and opportunity to engage in that seeking after the unknown. Who knows some may just have clicked and found it.

Tom

And finally...A parish magazine reported: "We are pleased to note that there has been a change of mind by the Housing Department regarding the name of the new housing complex for the elderly. 'St. Peter's Close' did seem a little inappropriate".

Sent by Canon Tom Page

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