

BRIDGE

June 2020



**For the United Reformed Churches in
Bewcastle and Carlisle**

**Part of the
Cumbria URC Missional Partnership**

Contacts and Sunday Service Pattern

THE MINISTER

Following the retirement of Rev Nick Mark

We are in a period of Vacancy.

Enquiries should initially be directed
to the principal contact of
one of the two churches
as appropriate.

THE KNOWE CHURCH

BEWCASTLE

Services: 1.45pm on the first Sunday in the month

Contact: Mrs Doreen Telford

Telephone: 016977 48447

ST. GEORGE'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

WEST WALLS

CARLISLE

CA3 8UF

www.urccarlisle.org

Services: 10.30am every Sunday

Contact: Mrs Rosalind Fearon

Telephone: 016973 44892

Email: rosrayfearon@talktalk.net

When there is a fifth Sunday in the month
the Service is for both Churches
usually at 10.30am at St George's

**ALL SERVICES IN BOTH CHURCHES ARE
SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Reflections

An interview heard recently on broadcast news might lead us to think a little more carefully about how we should act, or for that matter not act, in response to the strange conditions in which we are currently living. The interviewee was apparently bemoaning what he took to be the government giving priority to restarting some aspects of sport over the easing of restrictions on the gathering of religious faith groups. Was he right to grumble?

If there is an issue for us here, it has nothing to do with the importance or otherwise of sport, it has everything to do with how we practise our faith at this time. We look to the life, teaching and example of Jesus for guidance and inspiration (part of our identity statement to be found on our website) and we have the clear example of him prioritising the human need for healing over the strict observance of Sabbath Day practices of his time. Not an exact parallel to our current situation, but it seems to suggest that we should not be over-anxious to get back to our traditional practices, but rather to try to turn restriction into opportunity by looking for new ways of worshipping (specific examples later) and new ways of giving help to the wider community. Briefly here, elders have discussed the charities which we currently support, and committed to our being a Fairtrade Church, ie. using Fairtrade products wherever possible.

Gently contrasting with this, we have the example of Jesus, in need of a time for quiet contemplation away from the crowds, going walk-about in the desert. We know that people can often derive great benefit from going alone for private prayer into a church building which is familiar to them or has special associations.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols addressed both of these issues, again in broadcast news, by expressing his desire that churches could be open for individual private prayer, subject to a routine of supervision, a routine of social distancing, and a routine of cleansing. He also mentioned that members of his congregation were practising their faith by running a large centre not far away (presumably from Westminster Cathedral) supporting human need.

A New Experience of Worship

There's no getting away from the fact that the present period of lock-down has temporarily called to a halt our normal pattern of worship as a physically gathered congregation. We don't know how long the restrictions will last, nor do we know the manner or the speed in which they will be relaxed. Rather than just sitting back and waiting it out, it is surely a time to explore alternative ways of worshipping.

The opportunities we have been able to publicise so far have one thing in common. You can watch them or listen to them, or both, but you can't interact with them. Perhaps you can sing along with some of the hymns if you happen to be in the bath at the time. We all sing best in the bath but ipads, tablets or whatever you use are not best suited to bathroom conditions and mains connected devices are potentially lethal as well.

Here now is how we can go one better. Lawrence Moore, who you may remember as one of the contributors to the 'Combating Survivalism' series which we ran in 'Bridge', is heading up what appears to be going to be a regular Service at 10.30am each Sunday using the internet conferencing facility called 'Zoom' through which participants can see and hear one another. If it looks a bit daunting it's not proving to be so - I've been joining in and, reassuringly, finding it gently chaotic; last Sunday there were about 60 participants. It's probably a good time to get involved because everybody's feeling their way, nobody's expert (yet).

So, if you're minded to give it a go, what do you need?

- An invitation: This takes the form of a number. This was 823 0494 1068 for Lawrence's Services on 10th and 17th May and looks like staying the same. No password is needed and you don't have to sign up to anything.
- A computer device: Laptop, ipad etc with internet connection, camera and microphone. A pair of headphones would probably be useful to hear better. With my hearing I certainly couldn't manage with just my laptop's tinny speakers.

- Zoom App: You can download an installation programme, for a Windows 10 laptop from <https://zoom.us/support/download>. Run the installation programme to install the Zoom App. If you run into any problems please let me know and I'll try to help. It's worth mentioning that, on my Windows 10 laptop, the App installs OK but does not produce a shortcut icon on the desktop.

And what do you do? Try this on a weekday, with Lawrence's invitation number, when there is no meeting in progress or being set up. This will give you a chance to get used to the Zoom interface and, in particular, to check your microphone and speakers and see the picture of yourself that others will eventually see. You may have to arrange to sit in a well-lit position. The same procedure approaching 10.30am on Sunday should lead you straight into the Service, so it's as well to have checked things out in advance..

- Run Zoom
- Select Join a Meeting
- Enter the invitation number
- Enter your name as you want it to appear to others
- Select Join
- Select Join with Video
- Select Join with Computer Audio



It would be good to hear what people make of this opportunity.

You might be interested to know that St George's Elders held a meeting on Monday 11th May from our own homes using Zoom. It was hosted by Will Lindsay and went off quite naturally and successfully subject to a few minor hitches. The weirdest thing to me was the suddenness with which everyone just disappeared when the meeting closed - a bit like waking up suddenly out of a dream. It's also worth a mention that you don't have to sign up to anything to join a meeting. If you want to arrange a meeting with a family member living away, you can sign up for a free account to do so, and all the family member has to do is 'Join a Meeting'.

Peter Day

From St George's Secretary

Many of you will know that our Antipodean holiday didn't turn out quite as planned. After ten days on the South Island of New Zealand we were summarily instructed to return to Christchurch airport before all flights were cancelled. Australia had already imposed travel restrictions so our onward flight was not an option. Hence, we spent three unscheduled weeks in Christchurch and, in the words of Kitty O'Meara's poem in last month's Bridge, we 'learned new ways of being'. The greatest gift was time: time to read, time to think, time to observe, time to walk, time to simply enjoy being. Here are a few of my musings and observations for the next two editions of the Bridge which you may find of interest.

Rosalind

Canterbury Tales (2020) part 1

Contrary to general opinion Canterbury is not a city in New Zealand. Instead it is the name given to the central region of the Eastern side of the South Island. My earliest memories of the word Canterbury come from trips to the butcher's as a small child when my mother, who was very particular about meat, always insisted on buying Canterbury lamb.

Christchurch is the administrative centre of Canterbury, and it is there that we spent three weeks in lockdown, staying in a motel. Here are a few observations about the city.

Time to Walk, Observe and Think

In the park

The local Hagley Park is graced by beautiful trees, huge oaks, maritime pines and many others unfamiliar to us. Each day we saw changes, the autumn leaves becoming more colourful and plentiful on the ground. It is impossible to walk beneath the oaks without being bombarded by acorns which formed a crunchy carpet under our feet. Nature is prolific, producing much more than is needed. If every acorn developed into an oak tree the park would become impassable, a veritable jungle.

Christchurch is a city of athletes! As we walked along, we were overtaken by lycra-clad cyclists or joggers displaying perfectly toned calf muscles and equipped with the obligatory ear plugs attached to their mobile phones, shutting out the sound of birdsong and rustling leaves. Perhaps I am being rather ungracious in my judgement: they may have been listening to something important.

The river that meanders through the park is the Avon. It is crystal clear, though we could not spot any fish in it. After some overnight rain the speed of the river increased rapidly and we were amused to see ducks joy-riding downstream carried by the fast current. At intervals there are metal grids stretched across the river to trap floating debris. Council workmen wade into the river with forks to gather it up into great heaps on the bank.

Along the roads

Same word - different meaning. We saw numerous road signs in Christchurch proclaiming 'No cruising'. No, we were not staying in a red-light district. Cruising here refers to the behaviour of motorists who drive in a slow convoy or in a manner that draws attention to them by accelerating noisily or sounding the horn unnecessarily.

Social distancing

Our daily walk presented us with a quandary: when approaching someone coming towards you do you move to the left or the right? I wonder if we will automatically step away from others long after the coronavirus has ceased to control our lives? And what do you do at pedestrian crossings? The button you press is a possible source of infection, so I resorted to using my knee - fine when Ray was beside me to stop me losing my balance.

Walks become a really useful source of information. Every time you meet someone smiles are exchanged. Sometimes we speak and then it is possible to guess the other's nationality. Locals say 'good-day', whereas the British are more likely to say 'Hi' or 'good morning'. If the latter then the conversation inevitably leads to the availability of flights home.

It was one such encounter that prompted us to phone Air New Zealand ourselves rather than rely on our travel agent. Dawson and Sanderson were extremely helpful, but inevitably 12 hours behind any local travel developments. We succeeded in booking a flight ourselves, flying home via Auckland and Los Angeles.

Our neighbours at the motel were from Holland, Germany, Sweden and Northern Ireland, all stranded and waiting for flights home. We didn't see much of the German lads, only a steadily growing pyramid of empty lager cans in their window! The Dutch, Germans and Swedes eventually returned home on special charter flights commissioned by their governments. Not so the British! We did defend our government valiantly by pointing out that there were over 10,000 Brits stranded in New Zealand. At least we had the option of commercial flights, unlike some who were stranded in less hospitable countries.

Nostalgia

Some aspects of New Zealand life reminded us of the UK in the 1950's. As far as we could tell most of the schools are single sex. Before the lockdown we spotted a crocodile of small girls, each wearing her regulation panama hat, walking to the park for a picnic. Strangely not one of them was carrying a lunch box; but then we noticed a teacher at the back pulling a trolley laden with them.

Everywhere we walk in Christchurch we are reminded of the UK. Streets have names like Dover, Worcester, Durham, Gloucester, Hereford, Lichfield, Salisbury, Chester and Manchester. Do I detect a touch of homesickness among those early immigrants?

Tragedies

Christchurch has had more than its fair share of disasters in recent years, notably the earthquake and the mosque shooting.

Earthquakes

In February 2011 there was an earthquake that killed 185 people and injured thousands. Over half the buildings in the central business area were irreparably damaged, as were several thousand homes, all of which have since been demolished. There are still some areas of wasteland remaining.

The iconic Anglican Christchurch Cathedral has been cordoned off. After years of debate the Anglicans voted in 2017 to restore it. Work is now being undertaken to stabilise the building so that it is safe for the restoration workers to enter. It is anticipated that it will take 10 years to complete and cost over £50 million. In the meantime, worshippers attend the Cardboard Cathedral, formally known as the Transitional Cathedral. It was designed by a Japanese architect and cost £2.5 million. It is made of cardboard tubes, timber and steel and took less than 2 years to build.

We were unable to visit any churches due to the lockdown. Our trip to the supermarket took us past several churches, an Anglican, a Chinese Methodist and a Christian Science one. They were all very modern white buildings, probably built since the earthquake.

At the edge of the park, spaced out along the roadside, is a row of 21 fully-functioning street lamps donated by cities from all over the world as a show of solidarity with Christchurch after the earthquake. This project known as the Solidarity Grid was inspired by the German professor Mischa Kuball who specialises in design in public spaces. One particularly striking contribution is a brightly painted red and yellow lamp from the Wuhan Municipal government in China. It looks as though it cannot decide whether to be a lamp or a small pagoda. Tragically Wuhan's latest gift to the world is less welcome.

While we were staying at the motel there was a slight tremor due to an earthquake of 4.3 magnitude. Ray said it felt like a heavy lorry passing by, but I slept through it. Our daughter-in-law Ally commented that the next thing would be locusts or even frogs! In our room there was a notice 'In the event of an earthquake, DROP, COVER, HOLD'. This may be perfectly intelligible to the locals, but we found it rather puzzling and open to a variety of interpretations!

The shooting

The other tragedy which made headlines all over the world was the shooting at two mosques on 15th March 2019 in which 51 people were killed and many others injured.

The killer was due to stand trial while we were there, but at the last minute he changed his plea to guilty, so sparing witnesses the ordeal of testifying. One of the mosques borders the park and we could see flowers laid all along the pavement to commemorate the first anniversary of the tragedy.

Time to read and simply 'be'

During our prolonged stay in Christchurch Ally asked on Facebook if anyone knew someone who lived in the city. Sure enough, there was a friend of a friend of a friend who contacted us with offers of help. Since we only had one and a half books left to read, we were desperate for reading matter. New Zealand television is tolerable but we didn't want to watch a lot of old UK soaps interspersed with local or Maori language programmes. Our new friend Katrina arrived with 18 books and a 1000-piece jigsaw map of the country. My knowledge of New Zealand geography is now much improved, but I am still very confused by the number of places with a 'w', 'k' or 'a' in their name. We didn't have time to read the complete works of Jane Austen, but I did read 'Last chance to see' by Douglas Adams which in 1989 he co-authored with Mark Carwardine to accompany a BBC radio documentary series about species on the brink of extinction. His quirky sense of humour made me laugh out loud. He was passionate about environmentalism and conservation long before such concerns became fashionable. He is best known for his book 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' written in 1978.

Food

It is noticeable how important food becomes when one is in lockdown. Planning our next meal became the highlight of the day!

The local supermarket was well-stocked with food, especially local fruit as it was their harvest time. One fruit we don't see in the UK is the Feijoa. It is native to Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina, and was brought to New Zealand in the 1920's. In appearance it resembles a dark green lime, but inside it is rather like a guava. It has a complex aromatic flavour, described as a blend of strawberries and pineapple with a pear-like gritty texture and a hint of mint.

The sweet cream-coloured pulp is used in cakes, salsas, jams, curries, pancakes, or it can be stewed with vanilla, cinnamon, brown sugar, lemon and a splash of sherry and then wrapped in puff pastry. Sadly, our simple kitchen at the motel didn't enable me to attempt anything as elaborate as this, but we did scoop it out the pulp and warm it up. It was 'interesting' but we wouldn't go overboard for it!

New Zealand seems to value their farmers rather more highly than we do in the UK. Anchor butter and milk are both more expensive. I discovered that the 'Anchor' butter we buy at home no longer comes from NZ because in 2009 they sold the franchise to a producer in Wiltshire.

Anyone who loves Marmite should not buy the New Zealand version. It bears no resemblance to English Marmite and I suspect it is another example of a franchise in name only.

We didn't see any pork sausages in the supermarket, only beef, many with additional flavouring. We particularly like the maple syrup ones. A local butcher was selling 'Cumberland' sausage before the lockdown. Probably all the pigs are kept inside as we didn't see any on our travels.

That's all for now. Next month I will write a little about our travels around South Island, the scenery and the wildlife.

Rosalind

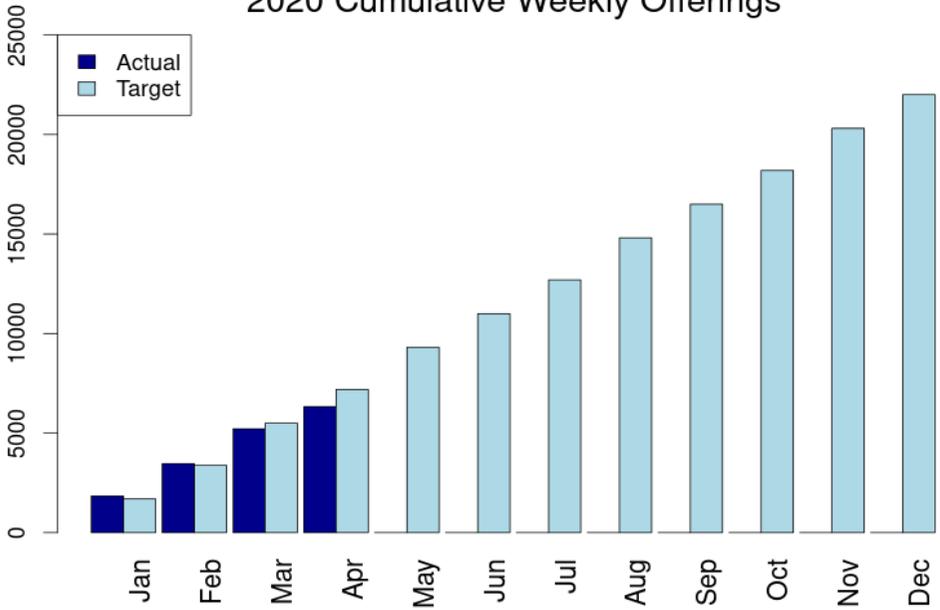
Christian Aid



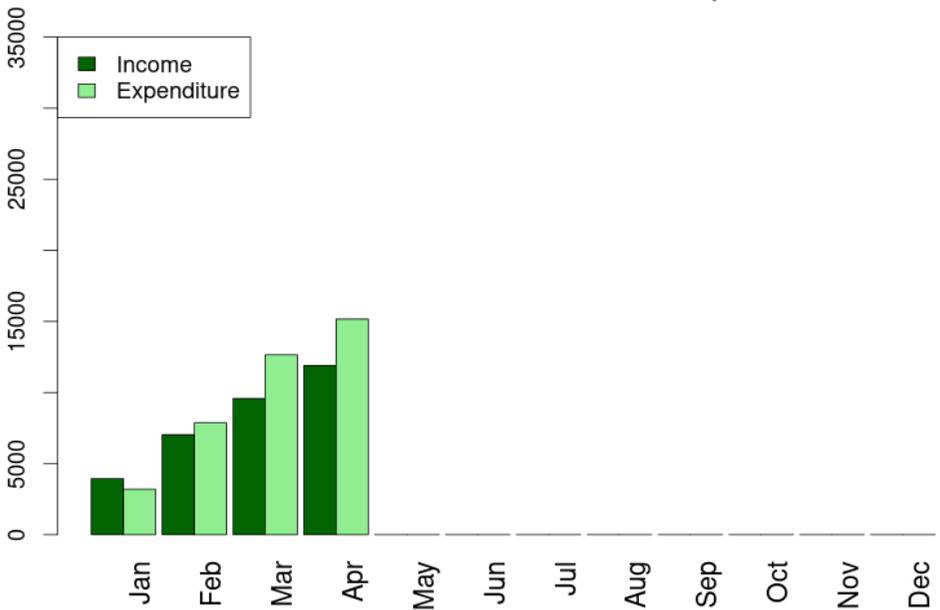
Christian Aid Week has passed a little quietly this year due to the lock-down. We invite you to consider making a regular donation to Christian Aid. You can do this either by speaking directly to their regular giving team on 020 7523 2046 or by using the Direct Debit form downloaded from the Home Page on our website.

You can explore other ways of donating by going online at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation>

St. George's URC Carlisle 2020 Cumulative Weekly Offerings



2020 Cumulative Total Income / Expenditure



Making financial contributions to the church **during the church closure due to the coronavirus pandemic**

The church is likely to remain closed for some time; however, we must continue to meet the cost of contributions to the Mission and Ministry (M&M) fund, the church rent, and to meet many of the running costs of the church buildings.

Unfortunately the closure means that the church will lose significant income from fund raising events and hirings to other organisations. I am therefore setting out alternative ways in which members could continue to make regular contributions to the Church. These include Standing Orders, Bank Transfers for those who use online banking, and cheques which can still be paid into the church's bank account.

A monthly standing order from your account can be set up using telephone or online banking direct to the church's bank account.

The account details are:

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC

Sort Code: 20-18-47

Account number: 40773484

Please use your name as the reference for the Standing Order.

If you don't have Online banking, you can complete a simple form and post it or hand it in to your bank. Single donations can also be made from your bank account, by telephone or online banking, direct to the church's bank account using the account details above.

Alternatively, send a cheque, made payable to St George's United Reformed Church, and post it to my home address: Mr John Ware, 15 Kentwood Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 5JX.

John Ware

Croftfield Care Home

It was good to hear that, when contacted last week, Croftfield had remained clear of coronavirus. Pray for the staff and residents at all care homes at this time which is so difficult for them.

Carlisle Food Bank

For anyone who wishes to make money contributions to the Food Bank now we are unable to make donations of food due to the restrictions on travel and socialising, details are as follows:

If you would like to make a regular payment, please instruct your bank to set up a Standing Order using the following details: Cumberland Building Society, Account Name: Carlisle Foodbank, Sort code: 16-52-21, Account number: 53624261.

If you would like to make a single donation, it should be by cheque made payable to Carlisle Foodbank, and sent to Carlisle Foodbank, The Courts, Nisi Prius Building, English Street, Carlisle, CA3 8LZ.

Any further information from Olive. To find out about gift-aid visit <https://www.carlislefoodbank.org.uk/support-us/>

Olive Cronie

West End Refugee Service

A call for help

In order to continue to support our most vulnerable clients who may be unwell or have to self-isolate in these difficult times, we are asking people to consider making donations to the WERS Hardship Fund.

As the situation changes on a daily basis, we do not yet know how we are going to best support clients, where staff will be located and how far we can travel. For example, we may need to provide food parcels, cash for essential items, such as medication, or phone credit for people to stay in touch with support networks remotely. By having additional money in the Hardship Fund we will be able to respond more effectively and flexibly to people's needs.

Any support that you are able to give in these uncertain times would be much appreciated. You can donate to WERS in several ways which can be found on our website at www.wers.org.uk

You can donate to the Hardship Fund through 'Just Giving' using the button near the bottom of the WERS website's Welcome page.

Also you can find the WERS newsletter, which includes this appeal, via St George's website. Select the Outreach page, follow the West End Refugee Service link, then follow the WERS Newsletter link at the bottom of the page.

Twelve Faces of Hope (8)

Living side by side in peace

My hope is that this occupation will come to an end and that Palestinians and Israelis can live normal lives side by side. I hope that this Holy Land can serve all three religions and be a global showcase of how different faiths can live together in peace.

Hope is important, and if we lose it there is risk that individuals turn to violence. Or that people give up and leave Palestine. That would be detrimental because we would then lose qualified Palestinians



who could contribute seriously to a different and better reality.

Our hope is challenged every day. Turning hope into reality requires an effort on all parts. Not only generic efforts, but efforts asserted by everyone in their respective fields of expertise.

The prerequisite for a new reality is an end of Israel's military occupation. I envision that to happen within a decade, and that also the issue of Palestinian refugees has started to be addressed by then. So that a rehabilitation process can begin, for both sides.

Israel cannot have an ongoing occupation and be accepted as equals - economically, culturally and politically - in the world at the same time. The choice is between remaining an outcast or joining the community of nations by ending the occupation. The will of the international communities is blocked only by Israel and the USA.

I keep hope alive by civil society work and working to create jobs in our community. I am engaged in economic development issues and in my job and civil society activities, I meet many foreign visitors who have come to hear more about our efforts. I also spend plenty of time with my two daughters, whose generation are our hope for the future. It is crucial that people from all over the world continue to come here to see and learn for themselves. Equally important is for them to then act on what they learn.

Many churches are already contributing in a serious way. The impact the church has on reality is proven, as we have seen in South Africa. The church must continue to be a driving force for justice and peace.

Sam Bahour

Writer, businessman, activist



Et Cetera from the Elders Zoom Meeting

Bridge

In the light of the current unpredictably changed and changing circumstances we find ourselves in, we decided that it would be expedient to publish a separate edition covering July, instead of following our normal practice of publishing a combined edition covering June and July.

The next claiming date for articles is Sunday 14th June. That puts printing and distribution more than a month from now, as I write this, if by any chance we're back to doing it by then.

Fairtrade

It was agreed that St George's would re-commit to supporting Fairtrade and that Rosalind would confirm this.

Carlisle Key

(Registered charity 1099610)

Carlisle Key works to unlock independent futures for young people of ages 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. We provide assistance and support within our drop in service to alleviate the hardship and distress caused by homelessness, housing, financial and other related difficulties. We empower young people by giving them the knowledge, support, and confidence they need so that they can live independently and take an active role in the local community.



Carlisle Key is currently in lock-down, unable to accept gifts of food but are able to accept donations by cheque. You can also donate to Carlisle Key through the Localgiving foundation. To make a one-off donation visit <https://localgiving.org/donation/carlisle-key> or you can set up a monthly donation and add gift-aid if you can. Visit <https://localgiving.org/donation/carlisle-key/monthly>

Local Giving

About The Localgiving Foundation

<http://www.localgivingfoundation.org/>

The Localgiving Foundation is a registered charity (registration number in England and Wales: 1132411; registration number in Scotland: SC047395) and owner of Localgiving. It is dedicated to providing funding opportunities and advocacy for local charities and community groups in the UK. Its mission is to safeguard the sustainability of the local voluntary sector by empowering charitable organisations to connect with supporters, fundraise online and take control of their future.

Localgiving validates all new charities and community organisations that become members. It manages the distribution of funds to each group via The Localgiving Foundation. This ensures that your donation is appropriately spent by trustworthy charitable organisations, so you can feel confident about the donations that you make.



Christian Aid - Syria

As the Syrian crisis entered its tenth year, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Islamic Relief and World Jewish Relief came together to organise an inter-faith prayer vigil outside the Houses of Parliament to raise awareness about the on-going conflict in the country, and to demonstrate solidarity with our local partner organisations working to provide assistance and protection to people caught up in the fighting and refugees seeking a place of sanctuary from the violence.

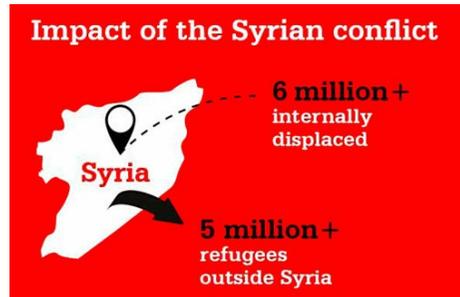
As our plans got underway, the Coronavirus epidemic spread around the globe and to the UK also; impacting on the lives of our staff, our volunteers, their families and communities up and down the country. Whilst our initial plan to convene the prayer vigil outside Parliament could not go forward, the participating agencies and faith leaders involved wanted to find an alternative way to demonstrate their solidarity with people in Syria, whilst also finding a safe way to come together, and so we took the prayer vigil online.

Nine years of violence in Syria have devastated its health system, and millions have been displaced from their homes and are living in difficult and often cramped conditions. A million have been displaced in Idlib, to the north of the country, since December 2019 and many of these are living in open, cramped tents and make-shift shelters putting them particularly at risk as the first cases of Coronavirus have been reported in Syria over the past week. The faith leaders wanted to demonstrate solidarity and highlight our common humanity as people around the world, including in the UK and Syria, face the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Creating alternative futures: educating Syrian adolescents

We recognise that returning to school can provide the only flicker of normality for many children in countries engulfed in crises. Christian Aid is working together with our partner in Syria to improve the skills, resilience and social inclusion of children and young people through education, psychosocial support, community involvement and peace-building dialogues.

The Syrian conflict, which began in March 2011, has triggered the biggest displacement crisis of this century. Over 6 million Syrians are internally displaced, and at least another 5 million have fled across national borders as refugees. As government troops, armed opposition groups, and international forces battle for power and territory, the lives and wellbeing of women, men and children are threatened. Children and young people are particularly at risk of becoming a lost generation, with limited or no education and employment opportunities, and struggling with severe trauma caused by conflict.



Before the war, almost all of Syria's children were enrolled in primary school, but today the country's school enrolment rates are among the lowest in the world. Young people are also disproportionately affected by catastrophic unemployment rates, which are at 90% in some areas, compounding the trauma, isolation and poverty they are experiencing.

Together with our local partner in Syria, our project seeks to ensure young people affected by conflict can access education and training to help transform their lives, reduce their vulnerability to joining armed groups, and support peaceful, cohesive communities. We will provide over 8,675 adolescents and young people in Syria with education, psychological support, vocational training, and opportunities to design and take part in community initiatives.

Daily Devotions

From the United Reformed Church, these are produced by ministers, elders and members, written months before publication so before the invasion of the dreaded coronavirus. Similarly the contributors to our Prayer Handbook had no knowledge of Covid-19 at their time of writing. It is surprising how appropriate their messages are for the conditions in which we find ourselves now. Or is it? God moves in a mysterious way ...

On Ascension Day, an extract from Stephen Best's page in the Prayer Handbook:

My Lord and My Friend ...

You made a promise that still holds true,
for we have not been left alone,
and it is through our unfailing togetherness in the here and now,
amidst the not-knowing and the not-seeing,
that all you wish for us will be accomplished.

And the prayer on the Daily Devotion on Ascension Day:
(the reading tells of Abram's leaving his home to follow the
Lord's command to travel to a new place)

Father God we are amazed at the way Abram trusted you as you
called him to leave all that he knew. Help us to hear what you
are asking of us and give us the courage to respond.

May we be a blessing to others too. Amen

(The Rev'd Viv Henderson, Minister of Minehead URC)

We live in strange times and value the faith we have to trust in
our Heavenly Father

Hymn 549 (R&S) verse 3:

As I (we) travel through the bad and good
keep me(us) travelling the way I(we) should.
Where I(we) see no way to go
You'll be telling me(us) the way, I(we) know
and it's from the old I(we) travel to the new;
keep me(us) travelling along with you.