

'Seeking to be the People of Christ at the Heart of the Community'.



Parkwood Methodist Church The Herald



St. Mark's Parish Centre
53 Thornhill Road
Longwood HD3 4UL

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**Nobody else can offer what you
have to offer**



**Bishop John Shelby
Spong**

Suppose we take God out of the sky and suppose we begin to think of God as a presence at the very heart of life. If God's the source of life, as I believe God is, then God is present in all

living things. God is present in you and me and in the whole created order.

And if God is the source of life then the only way you worship God is by living, living fully, sharing life, giving life away, not being afraid, wandering out of the certain into the uncertain, out of the known into the unknown.

If God is the source of love, as I believe God is, then the only way you can worship God is by loving. Not by being right, but by loving, by loving wastefully.

The image in my mind is an old sink in the basement. You plug up the drains and you turn on all the outlets and the water overflows the boundaries and goes all over the floor and fills up every crack and cranny, every dirty little space and never stops to ask whether that crack deserves this living water, whether that crack deserves this love.

You love because love is what you have to do not because somebody deserves the love. You love wastefully. If God is the ground of being, as I believe God is, then the only way you and I can worship God is by having the courage to be all that we can be, in the infinite variety of our humanity whether we are male or female, gay or straight, transgender or bisexual, white or black or yellow or brown, left handed or right handed, brilliant or not quite so brilliant. No matter what the human difference is you have something to offer in your own being.

Nobody else can offer what you have to offer. And, the only way you can worship God is by daring to be all that you can be and not be bound by the fears of yesterday.

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**What do we want to be after it's all
over?**

In a survey of 4,343 people that was commissioned by the Royal Society of Arts, alongside The Food Foundation, only 9% (!) of Britons reported that they wanted life to return to "normal" once the pandemic lockdown is over. That means over 90% are experiencing significant goodness and beauty amidst all the horror.

For many people the pandemic has been a wake up call to things that really matter: over half of the respondents (54%) reported that they hope to make changes in their lives, and that they hope the entire country will learn positive things from the hard

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times. Others said that they were experiencing more gratitude — 42% of participants said they value food and other essentials more since the pandemic. More people are cooking (38%), spending less money (61%), and enjoying the experience of cleaner air (51%). About 40% of people reported a greater sense of community with family and friends. Matthew Taylor, chief executive of the RSA, said that while it was right that the immediate emergency was the priority, "we must use this time to imagine a better future."



Beijing air quality before and after the pandemic shutdown.

Professor Tom MacMillan from the Royal Agricultural University, and research head of the RSA's commission, said: "This data shows there is a real appetite for change, and for the nation to learn from this crisis. People are trying new things and noticing differences, at home, in their work and in communities." MacMillan said this was especially apparent when it comes to food, farming and the countryside. Back in 2004 the economist Paul Romer suggested that "a crisis is a terrible thing to waste." That is, some of our worst experiences provide fertile ground for our best opportunities. There are opportunities now in the midst of the pandemic to re-shape our personal and collective selves in different and better ways. To see the strange beauty of the unconventional. To cultivate gratitude. To reconnect with

family and friends. To commit ourselves to what matters most. The pandemic challenges us: what sort of people, community, nation, and world do we want to be when this nightmare is over?

Dan Clendenin

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When I worked at DHSS, it was part of my duties for 5 years to visit people who were within 4 months of their 100th birthday. Not many when I first went there in 1973, about 1 or 2 but 10 or more a year when I retired in 1996.

A lady I remember very well, lived at Cowcliffe with her son and daughter in law. She asked if I would like her to sing for me and I said I would. Her daughter in law played the piano for her and she had a beautiful soprano voice. Her name was Zoe and I said that must have been unusual when she was born. She explained she was the youngest of 15 children and the children always named the next baby. I filled in the form to say she would like a telegram from the Queen then she said "show this lady the fork I am taking to heaven." I thought oh oh. Maybe she is not fit to have a telegram. She explained.

As a family they lived at Hillhouse and they



all attended Providence (Teapot) Chapel. Now a mosque. They had teas for everything. Whist drives, ladies night,

men's night, cricket in Norman Park, prize giving etc. But if they were told to keep hold of their fork, Zoe knew there was a pudding coming and for her that was the best part of going to church. So she was taking her fork to heaven. The best part of going to heaven she thought. She lived to be 103.

Barbara R

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CHILDREN'S GRACE

That little grace that I learned as a child:

"Thank you for the world so sweet
Thank you for the food we eat
Thank you for the birds that sing
Thank you, God, for everything

keeps popping into my head. Our efforts to avoid putting too heavy a burden on my daughter, who is shopping for us, makes us very grateful for the food we have and determined to avoid waste. I am taking great pleasure in making a little sweet treat for the grandchildren every week which Mum takes home when she brings the shopping. My daughter always brings baby Lux, whose baby days we are very conscious of missing, and sometimes one or both of the boys. We have a quick window waving session and then, as they retreat to the car, we open the door and are able to have a few words with them. It greatly lifts our spirits to be able to see them. One week, when we had a farm shop delivery, I posted some cookies to the boys and their arrival was the cause of much eager anticipation.

I see from his social media page that our esteemed Editor has the time to read food packaging and is more keenly aware of the origins of his food. Those who work in the food industry, supermarkets and logistics now earn much more respect than ever before.

We live in a very urban area here yet I can hear birdsong in the house right now without opening a window. I opened the back door for a moment in the early morning the other day and was treated to a dawn chorus like no other I can recall. On an evening when there were expected to be shooting stars we went outside and had a remote stargazing session with our 9-year-old grandson and his parents over Facetime. The night sky here has never revealed so many stars and, even with light pollution from street lighting, we were just

able to discern the free show staged by the heavens.

There is a general sense that the natural world is healing a little with less disruption from human activity and this is one of the positives, in the midst of all the human misery, for which to be thankful together with an increased appreciation of the provision of food.

Sheila Whittam

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Continuing the recipe's, treatments from the "1883 Consult Me" almanac.
The volumes amaze me. (Ed!)

Lemon Biscuits.

Beat the yolks of 10 eggs and whites of 5 with 4 teaspoons of orange flower water until they froth up, add 1lb of sifted sugar, beat for 40 mins. add 1/2 lb of flour, add pulp of 1 lemon, dust them with sugar and bake in quick oven.

American pancakes.

Mix 1 pint of cream, 5 spoonfuls of fine flour, 7 yolks and 5 whites of egg, pinch of salt. Fry them very thin in fresh butter and between each strew with sugar and cinnamon.

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Quarantine

Homeschooling is going really well: 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.

Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.

I'm so excited --- it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?

Homeschooling: My child just said, "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year" I'm offended

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

**5th Adrian Crossley
12th Jane Flaherty
20th Elaine Oldham
25th Renee Wyatt**

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So what have you all been up to during this lockdown period? In early February our son told me to stock up on essential goods, foods and freezable snacks. (He didn't mention toilet rolls) which like a good dad; I did. No idea why, he just said something was going to happen. He then told me I was confined to the house and garden until further notice and must only go out for essentials. That I must take Vitamins D & C on top of any other prescribed medicines, etc.....

So I started to look around for jobs to do:- No problem there were dozens of them. First task clear and dig the front garden flower beds and the weather being very favourable it went well and was soon finished.

Repaired/replaced twenty four feet of fencing; all delivered to the door. Now the back garden: dig and clear the weeds from the borders. Fasten my small greenhouse securely as twice in the high winds I had to retrieve it from the bottom of the garden, job done. Raise the retaining wall around the small frog pond to make a small planting area. Tidy the garden shed and clean and maintain all the tackle. Finally finish the cold frame I started some thirty years ago. This in amongst washing, drying, cooking and other general household duties. I've cleaned, all the kitchen cupboards and rearranged everything. Sorted wardrobes and upstairs dumping "grounds" (Cupboards & unused bedrooms).

Nearly there; all I need now is for somebody to say "You can have your garden party in July". (Don't hold your breath).

Joe

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What would Jesus say to us if he came back today?

I don't know how many times I've heard this question asked in a service. It's something I've never asked myself because I could never get my head round it.

But, I suppose there's come a point where you have to nail your colours to the mast, so let me share something with you during this time of the Coronavirus crisis.

I heard a news clip on the radio of Barak Obama addressing young people getting ready to go to college at this time of the Coronavirus, and he said to them:

'What's the point of having loads of money if there are so many around you who are sick and hungry'?

And, you know, it hit me like a bolt of lightning and I said to myself:

'Yes, that's exactly what Jesus would be saying to us now.'

The thing is, what I have to share with you may not be what you think Jesus would say. If that's the case, then here's a challenge for you:

What have you heard someone say about Jesus that really meant something to you? Well, take it - it's like gold dust - and use it in your life.

John.

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Spring, in the bottom corner of my garden.