



'Staying Connected' 19
Week Beginning 26th July 2020
Pastoral Letter

Dear friends

Somebody once said, 'life would be so much simpler without people'!

We might all want to nod in agreement, but for different reasons. One reason is that the less people there are, the less opinions there are – less people to consult, and the easier it is to reach a conclusion.

I'm not even going to attempt to quote the old saying, 'you can please some of the people some of the time....' etc because I can never remember it! Nevertheless it's true.

I hope you all will have had chance to read the latest updates, which include information in relation to worship from September. I'm certain that some of you will be baffled that we are not simply opening the doors and welcoming everyone back to services. Others will still not want to be part of any kind of gathering whilst the risk of infection is still very high.

I hope we all understand that what we are planning for September and October is not necessarily the new model of Church that is now set in stone forever, but with what we know, and what we are able to do, this is an initial way forward that offers the chance for people to at least meet together in a way that minimises risk of harm to others.

We want to talk and pray with you as local churches and in smaller groups, not least to explore the ways we are, and can, further fulfil God's call upon us as we emerge out of lockdown.

Undoubtedly some conversations we will have will be difficult. We will doubtless disagree on some things, but we are not at war with each other. We have this in common, that we seek to worship God and love Him with all we are. We seek to learn and grow as Disciples and care for each other. We seek to serve the world around us. And we pray that we can offer Christ and make Disciples.

Perhaps we need to ask the question, *'what needs to change in order that we more faithfully fulfil what God is asking of us?'*

As we continue to navigate these uncharted and challenging waters we do so with our eyes fixed on Jesus, trusting and obeying, and confident in the knowledge that with Him, all shall be well.

May you know God's peace as you come near to Him in worship.

Every blessing,

Adrian