

Mike's message

Lockdown thoughts

Well here we are. One year on and we're still in this strange world of lock-down. Of course we've been in and out of restrictions, or rather the nature of restrictions has changed, several times since we entered the first lockdown on 23rd March last year.

I wish that I could offer you a date that we might be able to worship again in the church building - but I can't. Any prediction would be sheer guesswork. For now I'm working on the basis that worship will remain online for all of March and April. That's why I haven't prepared a "Preaching Plan" and neither have the Circuit. Maybe as we approach May there will be light at the end of the tunnel. In the meantime we need to ensure that whatever light we do glimpse in the tunnel we proceed cautiously in case it's a train coming the other way! That's what happened in December when the Government were trying to lead us all in singing and dancing, taking credit for the arrival of the vaccine, and that they'd solved everything. Then they loosened restrictions at Christmas and the light in the tunnel turned out to be a whole range of new Covid19 variants coming straight at us.

I know that lockdown is particularly difficult for those who aren't online. I thank the hard working volunteers who are distributing printed material weekly so that everyone remains in contact.

None of us like lockdown but we owe it to those of our church members who work in the NHS, especially the hospitals, to do everything we can to make sure that this time the virus is under control before we 'open up'. Some of those members are absolutely broken by workload and what they've witnessed on the wards.

We owe them and each other something else too. When your turn comes round please, please have the vaccine. A lot of negative rumours have been spread about vaccines - those rumours are downright untrue. If there are people, even family, who are trying to persuade you not to have the vaccine, ignore them. If false preachers say "God will protect so you don't need the vaccine", remind them that we were warned about false teachers (eg 2 Peter 2 .1). If they quote Psalm 91 at you, as some have been doing, tell them that it simply isn't true.

What is true though is that even today God is still revealed in miracles. But instead of being carried out by wandering prophets, miracles today are worked by scientists and medics. What has been achieved in the last year; in vaccines to prevent infection, medication and treatment for those already infected, and knowledge about Covid19, are miracles of the present age. The NHS and scientists are the miracle workers of today.

