



July 2020

Dear Friends,

Isn't the human race remarkably adaptable! All over the world people are going about their daily lives in ways they never imagined even a few weeks ago – adapting to our changed circumstances during the lockdown. As a Christian, I believe this ability to adapt is something God-given. Human creativity is a reflection of the creativity of God himself. It's part of what it means to be made in the image of God as the book of Genesis describes us.

How have you been adapting? I've been adapting to a very different pattern of work, based at home rather than going out where people are. I've been phoning rather than seeing people face-to-face and, like many more, I have been learning some new tricks thanks to the Internet. I don't think I'd heard of Zoom until a few weeks ago. Now, barely a day goes by without me taking part in a Zoom meeting.

Although we've been unable to gather together in our churches we've been adapting to this setback with zoom services held twice daily which includes a twice weekly Songs of Praise where all we do is sing! We've been praying together daily for all in our communities, our country and our world – not just prayers about COVID 19 but all that continues to go on around our world - remembering the joyful and good as well as the sad and bad. We've also been able to use this time to catching up with each other in before and after-service virtual chats often with a coffee, tea or even a glass of wine in hand as we chat.

When the school is open I alternate with members of the church congregation in leading fortnightly assemblies for the Dasset C of E Primary school. When school (or should I say *Home Schooling*) resumed after the Easter Holiday I suddenly realised that I should have been leading a school assembly at the Dasset; it got me wondering if we could hold assemblies for the children during this time of isolation and home schooling. I spoke to our church ministry team and, with the agreement of Miss Corry (the Head Teacher) I started to coordinate digital assemblies for the school children to access. It was interesting working through and around the safeguarding issues but that done we had our first assembly on 5th May. The children's parents 'subscribe' and are sent the link to the daily assembly and a recording is sent to all subscribers so that they can if they wish watch it at a different time. Apart from a short prayer these assemblies are not 'religious' but follow the usual pattern including stories and songs. As I write this we are now into our second week of assemblies and it's lovely to join with the children.

In addition to this we held a 1940's Singalong on the 8th May Bank-holiday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. There was great singing from all.

Well, as we look towards a loosening of our '*lockdown*' I ask you all to continue to follow the isolation guidelines in order to safeguard each other from the virus. The community feeling and support for each other has been great - long may it last. God bless you all - keep well and keep safe.

*Rev'd Nicki*