

Lost and found



nexus
CONNECTING CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Autumn news from St Peter's Church, Elworth

Where is God...?



2020 has not turned out to be the year that we had hoped for, or were expecting. Nature seems to have turned against us with floods and fires affecting much of the world - from Australia, through the Americas, and into the Arctic Circle. The COVID-19 pandemic has blighted the year with over 1 million deaths worldwide so far, and increasing every day. And the cry has rung out: Where is God? And, this is a legitimate question. If God is a loving, caring God, why doesn't He sort out this mess?

But God is present. And, although it seems that He doesn't care, the actions of a loving and just God can be seen every day.

One of the fundamental aspects of love is that it is never coercive. God does not force us to do anything. The COVID-19 virus may have arisen naturally - but what about our response to it, and the nature of our humanly-created society that has allowed it to spread and to be so destructive? God has given humanity freedom; we are not puppets, so we have to take responsibility, both individually and

collectively, for our actions and their consequences. God's question to us is just as valid as our questions of God. Where are you? If you are loving and caring, why don't you do something about this mess?

Christians believe that when we act in God's ways He draws close to us. God doesn't take away all our problems (He never promised us an easy life); but God has given us the means to bring peace into our lives and justice into the world.

This is what we at St Peter's have seen over the last few months, and do please read Sue's story in this edition. We are also here as faithful followers of Jesus to try to help anyone in our community struggling at this time. We may not be able to solve your problems, but we can walk with you - just as God walks with us, sharing our pain and reminding us that we are not alone, but loved by a God who knows each one of us. A God who holds out his hand so that we can place our hand in his and know that we are not lost.

David Page

Lifted by prayer

Who would think that a simple fall could cause months of uncertainty and fear? In August that's exactly what happened to me.

When I fell, I broke my femur in two places. I had it plated in Leighton Hospital where they discovered that I had osteoporosis, along with a severely arthritic hip and base of the spine, making the whole area unstable. After a couple of days, the effort of standing while attempting to walk was enough to break my leg again above the plate, although this wasn't immediately clear from the X-rays.

I've been a Christian for 40 years, so from the beginning of this saga I asked for prayer support from Church. It didn't mean that I felt an immediate uplift or that I stopped crying in the 'low ebb' hours of the night. But it did mean that, as with the Footprints poem that many will know, I had an image of two sets of footmarks in the sand becoming one, and a sensation of being supported in loving arms. Some may scoff at this, but don't dismiss it until you have experienced it because it is THE most amazing experience!

Reviews of my X-rays by various trauma centres led to advice that the femur should be allowed to heal itself. I must remain in bed for five to eight weeks, followed by a four-week period learning to walk again. I received this news yesterday on my birthday; I'm sure you can imagine how devastated I was that it could be the New Year before I see my home again. BUT the prayers of the faithful have come to my aid, and by the afternoon I was feeling positive and cheerful again.

I give thanks to God every day for my blessings of family and friends, and particularly for the prayers of Christians who I can trust to pray in all sincerity for anyone who asks.

That word 'trust' is essential in our relationship with God - we can trust Him, but we need to keep up a dialogue with God, just as we do with friends. 'Ask and you will be given - seek and ye shall find - knock and the door shall be opened unto you.' If nothing else, in times of adversity remember to ask in faith.

Sue Yarwood



*We're still
here to help...*

Visit us online @

www.stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Contact us

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COVID-19

Due to the current Government lockdown we are sadly unable to hold services in the Church at this time - see our website for updates. We are following Government advice and social distancing is in place.

Find St Peter's Elworth online for our weekly services and children's resources:



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YouTube



www.stpeters-elworth.org.uk

We're still here for you as we progress through lockdown 2 and beyond - if you need any help or support please contact us. Please continue to stay safe.