



Christ Church News (11)

Easter 6 17th May 2020

'Go therefore to all nations and make them my disciples' (Matthew 28:19). This 'Great Commission' has, throughout the centuries, been a spur to the proclamation of the gospel. It is echoed in words often used to close a service: *'Go in peace to serve the Lord'*.

But today the command for many of us is not 'go' but 'stay'. Modern technology has made going while staying unusually possible, with many more people watching services on-line than usually attend in person. 'Reaching out' is another way of 'going'. A prayer to close the communion service includes these words: *'may our love be your love reaching out into the world'*. We have seen new waves of love reaching out into the world in the devoted and sacrificial service of health, care and other key workers putting themselves at risk to save lives and preserve safe living.

Our faith sees that love is rooted in, and springing from, the love of God for humankind, revealed in its fulness in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The church's task is to help the world make that connection and so to let the gospel bear more strongly on our public and individual lives.

But how to 'go'? Ah, there's the question! There is, of course, no one way. Some Christians have no hesitation in publicly declaring their faith, others are more reticent. But it may be that in these difficult times we are discovering new ways of reaching out, *'that the world may believe'*.

Derek Wales

Word for Today. Matthew ch28 vv.16-20

Prayer

God of all,
We talk much about witness, evangelism and mission;
About sharing the good news,
Being a light to the nations;
But when it comes to it our words are rarely backed up by actions.

We focus instead on worship, prayer and private devotion;
On personal growth and ties of fellowship;
Our minds turned in on the Church
Rather than out to the world.

Forgive us for our lack of faith,
Our lack of courage and our lack of vision.
Give us the words to say and the will to speak them;
And above all grant us a life
Which, in every part proclaims your glory and tells of your love.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

Poll Watch

24% of UK adults say they have watched or listened to a religious service since the lockdown started.

34% is the percentage among people aged 18-34.

5% of those who have tuned in to services have never attended a service in a church...



Poem:

Walking during the 'lockdown'

(with the current easing)

by Mary Quiney



Now in which direction shall I go today
on my hour-long daily walk?
Do I want to use it to go a long way
or to give me a chance for a talk?

But if my decision is for me to explore
the paths in my near neighbourhood,
I check the thermometer by our front door
so sandals or boots will be good.

A long way is Lavant – so this one I choose
when brisk walking is the main plan –
enjoying the bird song, the weather, the views
using paths through the fields where I can.

And then I am open and ready to say,
with a smile, a welcome "Hello"
to the people I meet who are coming my way –
All people who I didn't know!

I'll put on my boots to go over small rocks
and walk through the long grass and dirt.
I'll put on a thick pair of good walking socks
to make sure my feet are not hurt.

And, if I am lucky, the next one I meet
is a close friend or someone I know.
So we keep our distance of just over six feet
and have a good chat as we go.

and...

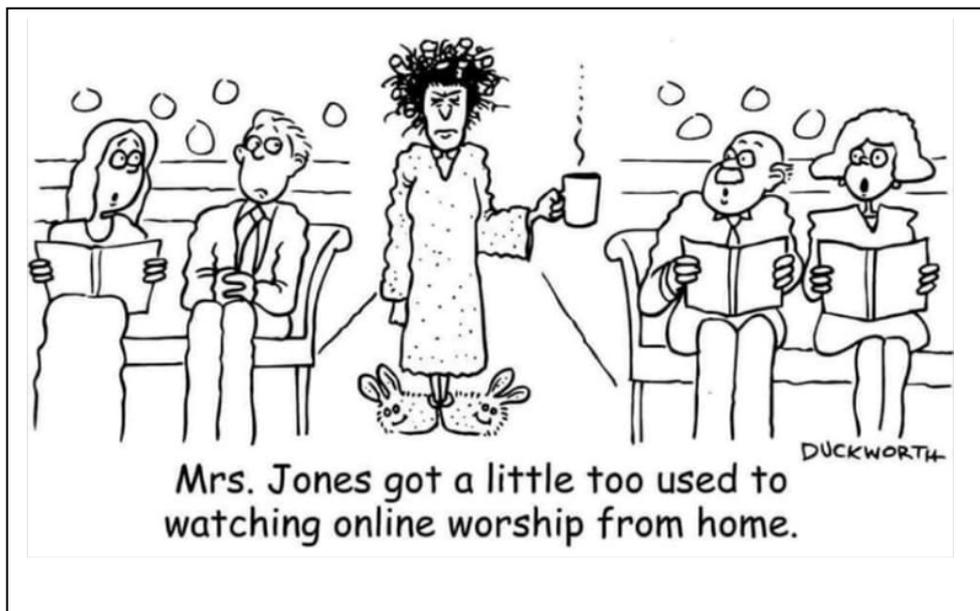
The 'clapping for carers' has brought us all out
and we wave, we talk and we smile.
So 'caring for clappers' is what it's about!
Let's hope **this** will last a long while.

Found in the Credo column in The Times

submitted by Terry Timblick

The online explosion means there has never been an easier time to visit church -
several times a week even. You can leave half-way through, drink tea during the service,
even tune in wearing your pyjamas and fall asleep any time.

The writer concludes: *"This might just be the sort of church I always dreamt of."*



submitted by Karen Lillington