

Eynsford Baptist Church

A few months ago, when most of us were getting weary of all the talk about Brexit that dominated the news, none of us could have imagined the extraordinary season that lay around the corner. Yet here we are! A few reflections.

I am sure that I speak for the whole community when I express profound gratitude to all those, especially in the National Health Service, but also other essential services for their hard work and commitment at this time. Whilst most of us are *staying* at home to save lives – you are taking the risk of *leaving* home to save lives. This is a season when thousands of ordinary people have become heroes. The list of other heroes is too long to mention, but those who work in care homes surely deserve a mention too.

Before the pandemic ends, probably most of us will know of someone – directly or indirectly who has died. We offer our condolences to those who have been bereaved.

Essential to our collective mental health is keeping our thoughts positive. Some food for thought:

- How much harder and less effective would the response to this pandemic have been before advances in digital technology and the Internet? Back in the 14th century, the Black Death killed an estimated 100 million people. In those days there was no science, no modelling, no testing, no video conferencing and so on.
- How much more catastrophic would things be for our nation if the government had not stepped in with a package of help and support for businesses, employees and the self-employed? Of course, there will be a price to be paid in the future, but undoubtedly businesses and jobs are being saved.
- Times such as these provide opportunities for ordinary people to perform acts of kindness and selfless generosity. Long after Covid-19, there will be a legacy of memories of sacrificial care, concern and neighbourliness. The values on which our nation has been established are very much in evidence.
- We enjoy fresh, clean water with which to wash our hands!

The apostle Paul instructed, “Let your requests be made known with thanksgiving.” This we certainly do as we pray for an end to this dreadful season.

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