



Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 2

29th March 2020

God's Church: The Building or The Body, and Serving Others.

The Oxford English Dictionary offers several definitions of 'Church'. One is 'A building for public Christian worship', and another is 'The Body of all Christians'. The first is possibly thought of more than the second. But the second is the most important. The second is always open even if the first is temporarily closed. We are church wherever we go and God is with us.

The church today is learning to be church in different ways: connecting with each other using modern technology such as email, social media, Whatsapp groups, and even 'old fashioned', but just as valuable methods, of using the telephone and writing letters to be sent by Royal Mail. All of these tools can also be used to serve others.

During this difficult time, and time of hardship, we see the best and worst of human nature. We see the best as many selflessly serve others while the worst is manifested in the selfish behaviour of panic buying in supermarkets.

1 Corinthians 12:5 tells us that 'There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord'. There are many ways to serve others. Staff in Health and Social Care work tirelessly to protect and care for the elderly and the sick. Many acts of kindness are carried out by shopping for neighbours or collecting prescriptions for those who can not get out themselves through age or illness, or having to self isolate to protect themselves in the current war against an invisible enemy.

A plaque on our chapel wall reminds us of another time of hardship during which five men who left the village to selflessly serve their King and Country made the ultimate sacrifice and did not return.

Following their example we can endeavour to serve others selflessly in any way God calls us to, and no act of kindness goes unnoticed by God. People of all ages can serve others, by shopping, phoning elderly relatives or neighbours for a chat and to let them know they are valued and not forgotten.

When Jesus was sitting in the temple opposite where the offerings were put, he watched some people giving large amounts but Mark 12:42 - 44 tells us 'But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on". The widow gave honour

to God and we can honour God by serving others in many ways. We may never know how much they are appreciated by those being served, and no matter how small we may feel our acts are, Jesus sees them and gives them the recognition they deserve. Age is no barrier to serving others whether a child or a widow. If you are giving a food parcel to an elderly neighbour why not encourage a child to write a note to go with it to give them a reminder that they are thought of and not forgotten.

In time this difficult period will come to an end, and we look forward to returning regularly to our church buildings to worship together.

During the dark times of World War II Dame Vera Lynn sang a song which many of our older friends will remember which includes the words:

‘We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day’.

Christians around the world do not know when they will meet again, to worship together, to grieve any we may have lost to the enemy of the Coronavirus, and offer thanks for the safe return of others, but we do know where... It will be in the church buildings. And for some of us it will be at Perry Green Chapel at Peters Green, and it will be in God's perfect timing.

May God bless and keep you... Until we meet again.

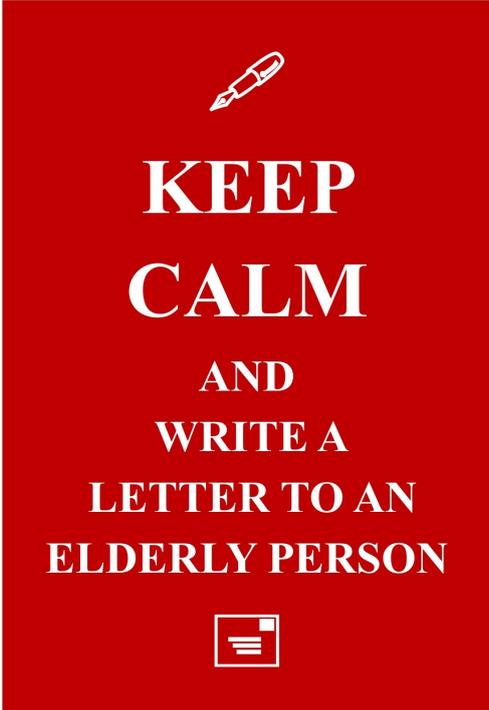
Peter

For I'm building a people of power
And I'm making a people of praise,
That will move through this land by My Spirit,
And will glorify My precious Name.

Build Your Church Lord,
Make it strong, Lord,
Join our hearts, Lord, through Your Son,
Make us one, Lord,
In Your Body,
In the Kingdom of Your Son.



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**KEEP
CALM
AND
TRUST
GOD**




**KEEP
CALM
AND
WRITE A
LETTER TO AN
ELDERLY PERSON**
