

THE HALAS TEAM MINISTRY

Cradley, Halesowen, Hasbury, Lapal & Romsley

Rector: Fr Rob Hall



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Dear friends in Halas,

It has been a week of living in a 'strange land' as the Boney M song quotes in their song quoting Psalms 19 and 137. We wonder how you are? Remember that your clergy are on the end of the phone, please do not hesitate to call for a chat.

All of us are liable to go a bit stir crazy being cooped up, many of us alone at home, we need to take care of ourselves, particularly our health. Do try and get out for a walk daily, if you can. Our mental health is just as important and enforced isolation can be very difficult. Make sure you're in touch with your loved ones and your clergy. We want to support any way we can.

This strange land reminds me of a course we had at All Nations Christian College called 'Loss and Change'. It was a course about bereavement and grieving because people training to leave their careers, families and countries in God's service were going to experience grief at all these losses. This is also a time of bereavement when we suffer the loss of many freedoms and privileges. We need to remember for ourselves and those around us that we are all in a time of grieving and that the emotions of denial, anger, bargaining, sadness will all be swirling within and around us. Let us be kind to ourselves and to one another, patient and forbearing too. There are no short cuts in grief and it will take time to adjust and readjust and just when we think we may have cracked it, to readjust some more.

We have a group of people who have volunteered to do groceries, pharmacy pick ups and other necessary tasks if needed. Contact your clergy who can then find a volunteer. They have strict orders to stay safe themselves and so will keep social distance and minimise contact. Don't be offended if they don't stay to chat on the doorstep.

Contrary to last week's letter, we now will not put anything through the doors, unless it is absolutely necessary. However, all the prayer materials will be available on www.halasteam.org.

We are praying together morning and evening lead by Team clergy. These are broadcast live on Facebook and are available after to use. Links to these times of prayer will be on the halasteam website.

A Sunday sermon will be available on the website and on Facebook and a mid week reflection also.

Please email, telephone, WhatsApp names for prayer lists to parishoffice@halasteam.org.uk or to your clergy. We will try to include these as we pray together, understanding that too long lists might not be practicable, but the clergy will certainly be praying and they will be published on the website for our prayers at home.

We hope that you are all managing to stay safe. And, that when you're out and about for necessities and exercise that you are being careful.

"The Lord bless you. and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you. and give you peace." Numbers 6:24 - 26

Katryn.

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