

The Parish of Halas

Together in Christ

CRADLEY HALESOWEN HASBURY LAPAL ROMSLEY



Dear friends in Halas,

I trust this finds you as well as can be; still on pilgrimage with each other and with the Lord.

I have been listening to a futurist called Graham Codrington who talks a lot of sense to my mind. He describes himself as not predicting the future but researching historic trends to see if they might inform current realities.

I was hoping that, perhaps by some miracle, I would be able to visit my family and other animals in June as planned. Then I thought, maybe I can benefit from these knock down prices and book for my post Christmas break. It feels like a long, long way away. Then, listening to Mr Codrington I'm beginning to realise that if things go as he thinks, international travel will not be resuming at all until mid-2021. I find it hard to get my head around that length of time having grown accustomed to a fairly instant world.

So, what I am adjusting to the reality that physical distancing is going to probably continue for a lot longer than I had imagined. How do we settle into the long haul?

The other interesting bit of information I came across was a blast from the past, the concept of 'culture shock' or 'culture stress'. I got a T-shirt in that subject moving to France from South Africa. When you enter a new world, after a honeymoon period when all is new and fascinating, and the adrenalin of the adventure keeps you going. Then reality of the new wears off and we long for the familiar and the safe. The honeymoon of Covid 19 lifestyle is probably wearing off for many of us now. All those jobs we hoped to do are probably more or less done (or not started at all, if you're like me) and it's not so much fun anymore. People have died. The world feels unsafe. There is no end in sight. The adjustments are complicated and take time. It's lonely.

This is the moment when perseverance needs to be exercised. The simple disciplines of one small step at a time. A simple daily routine. Exercise – look at what Col. Tom managed around his yard! Not expecting too much of yourself. Digging deep into one's convictions about the presence and love of God for me, for the world. Looking for help if you need it. These are hugely stressful and traumatic circumstances, we need each other more than ever. We must not hesitate to be in touch with one another regularly. As the slogans go: the buildings may be shut but the church is very much alive and active in the love of God.

As clergy in Halas we are committed to you first and foremost, and we will do all we can to support and encourage and help you. We are always on the end of the phone.

So, friends, let us encourage one another daily, as we seek to grow deeper in God during this enforced Jubilee 12 -24 months.

With our love,

Katryn.

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