



A VERY PERSONAL LOCKDOWN REFLECTION FROM CHRIS

I am writing this towards the end of June so things may have changed drastically by the time you read or hear this.

In the middle of March, the government put the nation on lockdown. We all started our individual journeys through various constrictions, at times contradictory, to control the Coronavirus. Everything stopped as we were asked to stay home, to stay safe and save lives.

Lockdown initially came, with a series of things, that I had taken for granted and that I could no longer do. Church was closed, a holiday was cancelled, we could no longer meet friends and family, and I was no longer able to work.

Initially in Lockdown everything came to a halt and slowed down. There was a silence with the Covid 19 virus an “invisible enemy” that we had to defeat.

But what was I doing to defeat this enemy...not much! I felt so guilty. I thanked God for the brave people working in hospitals and care home. Having worked in a care home myself I knew how difficult it would be. I realised that these often-modest people were in many ways the most valuable in society.

I realised the importance of medical research and thought of one of my son's friend who had gone to Oxford University and obtained his PhD in Clinical Medicine.

4 weeks into Lockdown we had a blocked drain. As this was a health risk a cheerful man from Dyno Rod turned up and without any fuss made everything right again: - yet another invaluable person. The bin men still came and the postman. There were brave people were manning the food shops, delivering goods and the chemists were open. These had become the most important people.

However, with Adrian helping, I made a small contribution by being an NHS Responder, getting food parcels to people, organising medicine, and doing shopping.

My son, who lives alone, came back to live with us, quite harmoniously as all petty squabbles became pointless in Lockdown.

I have admired the stoicism of my sons and Adrian. My eldest son and his wife have worked full-time virtually all the way through lockdown, as a special needs children teacher and a social worker, balancing work with childcare.

I have listened to my other son, another teacher, having endless online meetings, trying to stay positive, cheering up his staff, phoning parents, producing online teaching packs, and dealing with queries. Now back actually teaching in his bubble of children he is adapting to the challenges that social distancing brings, with school life changing even more rapidly than normal.

Adrian, who is 71 years old, has donned his PPE and returned to work as a school Crossing Patrol Officer

I have had time to think about the terrible things people have had to experience with the pandemic, and the hardships and uncertainty we will face in the future. I and my family have been lucky so far.

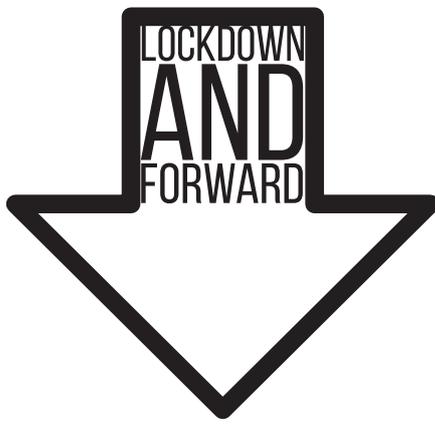
Combating the virus has been described a ‘war’. I am of a generation where the Second World War greatly affected our parents. My parents would talk about some people having an easy war perhaps having a ‘reserved occupation’. So far I have had an easy war against Covid19.

I am reminded of my father in law who had a terrible time in WW2. After being shipwrecked twice he ended up in Malta and endured the siege of Malta where the people starved. He was drafted into the RAF and had to maintain the airfield and the 3 planes that remained called ‘Faith, Hope and Charity’

In Corinthians Ch.13:13 Paul writes,

‘And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love’.

These virtues will be needed to respond further to the crisis, trust in our Lord and try to make a better world in the future.



REFLECTIONS ON LOCKDOWN AND BEYOND FROM ADRIAN

Luckily I and my family have experienced a relatively easy time in Lockdown and I want initially to pay tribute to all the key workers.

These are things that have stayed in my memory from our time in lockdown;-

1) Initially experiencing 'Covid-rage' at a local shop with bare shelves.

This was caused by an elderly woman standing in front of the tills buying and also checking her lottery numbers while chatting to the shop assistant. This made a man at an adjoining till, in close proximity get extremely upset.

2) Joining in, with a few Zoom Meetings and enjoyed keeping in touch with some Church members.

3) Having my younger son Peter back home to stay, as he has asthma which is a vulnerability, and initially we didn't know if food would be freely available.

4) Clapping for carers at 8pm every Thursday and being able to chat, at a safe distance, to a few acquaintances and neighbours.

5) Phoning people from Church to make sure they were alright and making sure they had support at home.

6) Helping Chris with her role as an NHS responder.

7) Wearing PPE when I returned to work as a School Crossing Patrol Officer.

Trying to put on and take off protective gloves.

8) Enjoying walks with my son and appreciating the local area. Taking the opportunity to discuss the problems and implications of lockdown.

9) A friend of mine 'disappeared' at 9am one day. His family thought it to be an attempted suicide. There was a message posted on social media to report any sighting of him as they were getting very worried. Because my son and I had previously seen him on our walks we searched the route he and his wife had taken. Thankfully, he was found in the early evening safe and well.

In lockdown I have continued my usual 'c'est la vie' attitude to life and reflected in Psalm 23 Verses 1-3

'A Psalm of David.

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul:'