



## Greetings!

Currently Fiona is recuperating after a fall, and recovering slowly following a 2 hour operation on her wrist just over a fortnight ago. Fiona may possibly share her reflections on this when next she writes for the Bridge.

We've had our second jabs, and are looking forward to returning to church in a couple of weeks. Later, maybe, even dining out with friends for the first time in 15+ months. One guilty pleasure for me has been not going shopping for over a year, but I am mindful of the terrible impact the pandemic has had upon the livelihood of so many people, and businesses.

I am feeling some trepidation about going back to a new version of "normal", indeed what does that even look like for us as individuals?

What are your hopes and dreams for the "new normal"? For your community, congregation, for yourself?

I'm hoping for a more caring and considerate "normal".

I dream of a more generous, self-giving "normal", or perhaps it's a prayer for:

A "shalom normal" longing for peace with justice, and equality.

A "normal" that allows safe-space for those who mourn, a binding up of the broken-hearted.

A "normal" where hurting minds can find peace and wholeness.

A "normal" where kindness is our default setting.

A "normal" where diversity is celebrated and perceived as proof of God's creative artistry.

A "normal" where we speak gently to others, and ourselves.

A "normal" where those brought low are lifted up.

A "normal" where, close behind loving God to our uttermost, we "love our neighbour as ourselves." For surely that is what Jesus requires of each and every one of us, an out-working of the Gospel.

May God bless you and keep you in His love.  
Stay safe. **Tony Revd T deBoltz**



## Pray for India

*Please stand with us in prayer for our sisters and brothers in India.*

I will say of the Lord,

**'You are my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust'.**

**God of power and might we lift our  
brothers and sister in India to you.**

**We pray for your protection,**

**We pray for your provision,**

**We pray for the nations of earth  
to have compassion.**

**When people are in need,  
you are our refuge.**

**When people are scared,  
you are our refuge.**

**When people are mourning,  
you are our refuge.**

**Compassionate God, draw close to  
those who seek your refuge today.**

**Amen.**

**EASTER 6 May 9**

**Acts 10:44-48**

**Psalm 98**

**1 John 5:1-6**

**John 15:9-17**

*photo: <https://fisher.osu.edu/blogs/leadreadtoday/new-normal-vs.-old-normal>*



## Christian Aid Week

10-16 May 2021

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you' John 15:12*

Pray for all the events and services happening this Christian Aid Week, face to face and online. Pray that they will create a sense of connection and joy for churches and communities here in the UK



and across the world. The photograph shows Florence Muthiani and her farming group on their plot in Kyeng'e village, Kenya. Water from a nearby dam helps their crops to thrive. 'I am thankful to people who have donated to build this earth dam,' said Florence.

May the spirit of joyful giving transform communities across this nation and the world this Christian Aid Week. Amen

*Christian Aid Prayer Diary*

### CONTACT:

**Revd Peter Sheasby**

7 Pinfold Garth  
Malton

YO17 7XQ

[peter.sheasby@methodist.org.uk](mailto:peter.sheasby@methodist.org.uk)

01653 692173

**Revd Ken Gowland**

[gowlo@hotmail.com](mailto:gowlo@hotmail.com)

01439 770300

**Deacon F & Revd T deBoltz**

01751 430750

**Revd J Pickering**

01653 668628

**Ann Thomas (Admin)**

[ryedalemethodists@gmail.com](mailto:ryedalemethodists@gmail.com)

### Coronavirus response: India



Across the world, and especially in India, the most marginalised have been hit the hardest. From women and people with disabilities to informal and migrant workers and Dalit communities. Families who rely on income from a street stall or autorickshaw have been plunged further into poverty and

are at increased risk to this deadly disease. The Indian government has introduced some social security measures but much needs to be done to ensure this support reaches people who all too often get left behind due to lack of awareness, social stigma and discrimination. Thanks to generous support for our covid appeal, **we are working with our local partners in India to:**

- raise awareness of vital messages around health, hygiene, sanitation and prevention so families can protect themselves.
- help the most vulnerable and marginalised people to access the social and financial security schemes and relief measures they so urgently need to survive this pandemic.

So far, we have reached over 62,000 people from India's most marginalised communities with this support.

If you feel able to help us reach more of the most vulnerable people, **please consider donating.**

**Ways to Donate** There are many ways you can donate to Christian Aid and every penny you give will help realise our vision – an end to poverty. Please donate now [caid.org.uk](https://www.christianaid.org.uk)

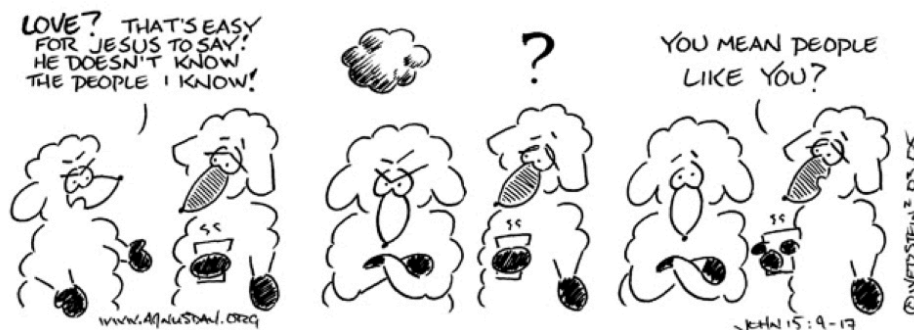
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-to-donate>

### Lectionary Reflection 9 May John 15:9-17

*Revd Penny Worth*

There's a very strong and striking claim here in v. 9 when you think about it: that the relationship between God and Jesus is equivalent to the relationship between Jesus and his disciples, and because we are also disciples, that includes us! We can see how that might be the case in some ways – God shares his divine nature with Jesus, we share our human nature with Jesus; God is present in Jesus in some way, Jesus is present in us in some way. Still, it's a bit mindboggling when we see how close is the relationship between God and his 'only son', to think that Jesus is that close to us.

But of course, it is the strength of our connection with Jesus that allows us to continue this cascade of love and meet the very demanding ask that we love others as he has loved us. Self-giving is the hallmark of divine love – does our loving stand up to scrutiny?



[ryedalemethodists@gmail.com](mailto:ryedalemethodists@gmail.com)

<https://www.ryedalemethodist.org.uk/events.html>  
For further information and service material for Sundays



52