



NEW BEGINNINGS

Dear Friends,

Maybe it's my age, but it certainly feels like only a few days ago that we were entering Advent and preparing for Christmas... and yet here we are already looking forward to a new year and hoping it will bring new beginnings in many ways! It's both disconcerting and encouraging during this particular time to know that everything passes and, in my experience, passes quite quickly!



And as it passes, one thing I have come to appreciate about the Christian year, with its seasons and different emphases, is that every time we worship and pray through the year, I notice something new. As we sanctify time, by allowing God's overarching story to shape and influence our own stories, it feels like we're not travelling in the same circle, but rather climbing an ascending spiral reaching up to heaven; raising our understanding of the breadth and depth and height of God's love for us as we make our way through lives surrounded by and constantly influenced by His perspectives. There can be a real benefit in remembering the pattern of God's work, within the patterns of our lives - if we do so mindfully and prayerfully; gleaning deeper spiritual insights as we do so. It helps us to keep in sight the full scale of God's work with us - and to remember that He's not done yet!

FRESH VISION

One thing I've noticed this year as we enter the season of Epiphany, is that the themes of this season all have a connection to new beginnings - The Lord does something new and the world changes, hope is set alight and fresh vision given. Epiphany

is about the renewal of hope because the Lord is here!

Let's remind ourselves of the powerful pictures that this season calls on; they are:

- the kneeling of the Magi before Jesus, the beginning of the rule of a new wisdom in the world - a new king and a new kingdom;
- the baptism of Jesus, a new revelation of the nature of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit with the dawn of a new age - the age of the Spirit;
- Jacob's ladder and the opening of the doorway to Heaven by Jesus and the beginning of the end of our journey towards God; the new way to God is here;
- The wedding at Cana; weddings always carry the meaning of a new phase in relationships and the joy and celebration that commitment brings; and the first sign of the richness and abundance of grace

A new kingdom, a new age, a new door opening, a new phase in life. No wonder we hear the One on the throne in the book of Revelation say, "Behold I make all things new!"

Throughout Advent, we have been hearing the words of Isaiah given to the prophet as he sees that God is doing something new through the one who is to come...

*Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:18 - 19)*

*"For behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered
or come into mind." (Isaiah 65:17)*

And we see in the signs that surround Jesus that this new thing is here; the new kingdom, the new age is here. In Jesus, the way in which God pursues His plan to draw us all to-

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

wards Him is revealed and initiated. Epiphany celebrates these signs that God has given to us; signs that show us that we can trust that in Jesus, the old is in the last throws; peace is being restored and all will be made well in Him.



And the greatest sign of this in our age has to be... us. His people. Those who desire to live with hope and love in their hearts. Those who choose to trust in His promise, receive the Spirit's strength and move onwards in His strength and empowering.

TO DESIRE...

To desire to live in the Kingdom way, to be part of the "new" thing that God is doing through Jesus - this is what makes God's action in the world real; this is the first fruit of the Kingdom made real in our lives. To desire goodness and kindness, faith and hope because we know these ways manifest the love that is the real power for change at work within us and around us. As St. Paul puts it, "to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" is the sign that we have heard and received "the new" that Jesus brings. A life lived in the grace and acceptance that Jesus has taught and made certain for us.

I imagine that we have learned a lot about ourselves in 2020 through the way we have responded to this testing time. We will have learned to appreciate freedoms we may never have even thought of before; we have missed the presence of people we love and that tells us about how important they are to us, and have experienced more of those we live with, more than we are usually used to!! We have chosen to respond to the strange situation in particular ways - decided how we are going to act towards the risks we have faced. In the starkest terms, we have decided what is most important in the wrestling between freedom for ourselves and the cost paid by others; the complexities of well-being in all the ways that affect human life - physical and economic, emotional and spiritual. In this way, we will have learned something about where we are today.

But 2020 is already the old. As followers of Jesus, we are called to fix our eyes on Him and the future He is leading us into. To take what we've learned, praise God for the good, repent of the bad - but keep our focus on the *new things He has in store for us. Falling into grace where we need to and growing in His ways of compassion and service.*

So I pray for a blessed, healthy and prosperous new year ahead for all of us... one that ends pandemic free(!) but maybe one that is not too "safe" from the new adventures the Lord is leading us into.

With every blessing,

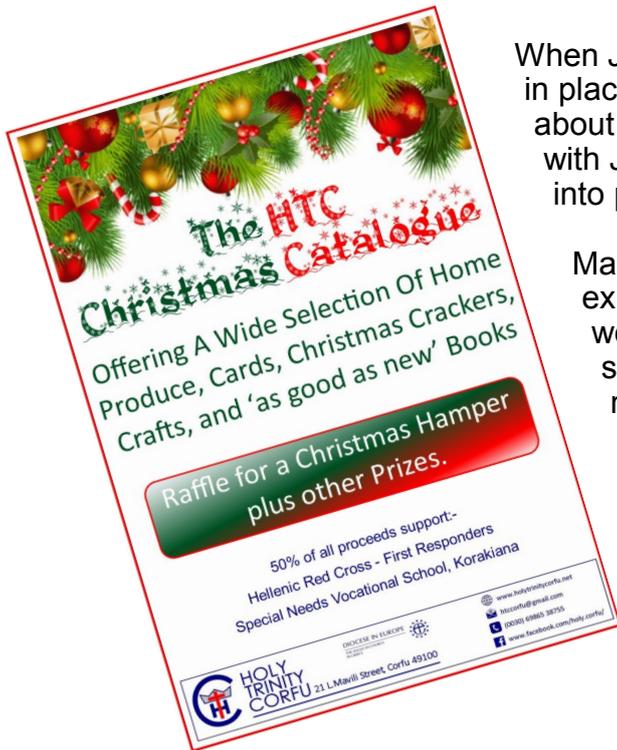
Jules.

'TOGETHER and APART'

We will continue to provide online 'Together and Apart' services, as well as the live Sunday service. There are also prayer meetings on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Please contact us, if you would like details of how to join us.

<https://sites.google.com/view/holytrinitycorfuonline/home>

The HTC Christmas Catalogue



When Jules asked Jane and myself to facilitate a catalogue in place of a Christmas Bazaar we had no idea how to go about it. However once we started to arrange it together, with Jules planning the IT side of things, it seemed to fall into place.

Maggie joined us and together we made it happen. We experienced one or two hiccups but we felt it had gone well with very encouraging feedback. Resulting from its success there were muted comments to do it again, maybe alongside the actual church event of the Summer Fair and the Christmas Bazaar. We felt it reached out to those who maybe had not previously been to a church event.

We would like to say a big thank you to all those who contributed items for sale and to those who supported us by buying them.

Rhona and Jane

*Keep us good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
Be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all those brought low;
That we may, find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen*



the MIRACLE of HEALING *in* BEREAVEMENT

This month we have two articles from Loraine Tombros' cousin, Isabel also known as Elizabeth.

Elizabeth worships and serves at a United Reformed Church, is a Methodist lay-preacher and has been part of an Anglican Healing Team sent to Burundi.

The Background

A few weeks after my husband John suddenly died, late January 2020, I continued to feel considerable pressure in my chest. After the death of my grandson two and a half years previous I felt something similar and was checked out by a doctor who confirmed all was OK. Apparently, this often happens during bereavement through shock and stress.

The Lord, through the constant prayer support of my church had kept me positive and strong in Him. However after about 12 weeks, I began to be very tearful – I was pleased to know the grief etc. was being released. However at this time the tears began to be more intense than before and for about ten days, during my daily devotions, I talked to the Lord about it.

I chatted to Him about all the happenings during the night John died from an aortic aneurysm and was in extreme agony for three hours when I was comforting him, nursing him through the pain and a couple of collapses etc. before the ambulance arrived. It was sudden and unexpected.

Four paramedics were required to avoid him going unconscious when putting him on the stretcher and bringing him down the stairs. To make space and to prepare to go in the ambulance with him, to hospital, I moved to leave the bedroom but John urged "Please don't leave me".

I assured him "I am not going anywhere!" but at the same time, needed to make space for them to do their job. This was the last thing he said to me and the last time I saw him conscious.



The paramedics decided not to let me go with John in the ambulance to hospital so I was taken in the second ambulance. When I arrived at the hospital John had already died.

The Healing

So – I was before the Lord with a lot of emotional pain, guilt and brokenness. The memory of that night went round and round in my mind. I was crying a lot and was seeking the Lord fervently and in some anguish.

"Lord I need to know John is all right. I believe He is with You but I need the assurance that he and You have forgiven me for leaving him that night. Please help me to forgive myself. Lord I confess the hurt, the pain, self pity, false guilt, wallowing over the situation, 'do not let me become bitter' I pleaded.

"I need the cleansing of Your blood, body, soul and spirit in order to receive Your deep, deep healing."

The tears subsided and some of the chest pressure lifted as I asked the Holy Spirit to

come and fill me, lead me, guide me in decisions etc. the rest of the day. Strength came.

A couple of days later, kneeling before God I found myself crying out to him again in this way for healing of the brokenness, the grief, loss and all associated emotions. But there was also a question from Him.



“Are you going to allow Me to come deeper into your soul, into the hurt, grief and pain? You feel you want to hold onto some of it. It will take courage as I understand they are very, very open wounds but it is only as you open up these raw areas to Me that I can heal you. Give Me what you can at the moment”.

So I obeyed and confessed all that the Holy Spirit identified and prompted in me at that time. It was not easy and I feared I would get more hurt by opening up more of myself even to Jesus but He encouraged me, granted me courage and His gentle presence. I was reminded of Peter saying ‘Lord to whom shall I go? It is You that has eternal life.’

In other words if I wanted to continue to serve Him, in the power of the Holy Spirit, this vessel had to be thoroughly cleansed, for the Holy Spirit can only live in cleansed areas of our lives. It was the only way forward. A choice had to be made.

So cautiously, I opened little by little, focussing on Him and received a precious touch and release. Once again more pressure in my chest lifted at a deeper level as I allowed Him to bring blood-cleansing through the tears, and Holy Spirit’s strength and comfort. The tears began to stop.

It was the next day when I found myself deeply sobbing before God with the same fears and anxieties.

“Is John alright? Has he forgiven me? Forgive me Jesus and help me to forgive myself.”

I knelt in His presence, quiet except for the sobbing. Again He was asking permission to come deeper still into my soul. I was getting exhausted but knew it was the only way forward.

“Lord I give John totally to you”.. If there is any ungodly linking between him and me, I sever this now with the Sword of the Spirit to release him totally to you and I ask the blood of Jesus to wash this away and receive the liberty of the Holy Spirit’s blessing”.

You see, my mother at 99 died a few months earlier. She was a Christian and longing to go to Jesus but something was holding her back. I asked the Lord what it was and He showed me a hot air balloon, tethered by one rope. I did not need to know what the rope represented, but in the Name of Jesus, I cut the rope and she went to be with Him in a couple of hours.



So, as with John, I could not identify anything specific, but felt I needed to release him totally to Jesus and as I did so, the sobbing intensified and the remaining pressure in my chest released as the tears stopped.

All I can say is, my broken heart has been healed. Jesus came to heal the broken hearted! I feel an incredible freedom, strength and release to go forward in whatever God’s plan is for me, with excitement – and John is cheering me on!

You see the next day, I had a clear impression. It was not a picture, nor a vision, but it remains with me. John was looking straight into my eyes, with a powerful love for me. There was no unforgiveness there but a sense of him saying 'It is amazing here!'

I know many feel that the brokenness and pain of the loss of a close loved one will always be there but I want my experience to give hope and faith that it need not be so. It does however take courage to allow Jesus to come into our souls at a very deep level.

I am now in my 70's and have grown in strong faith since 17. I have had training in spiritual steps for the release of emotional damage and healing over several years. I say this because

God knew where I was at and how I would respond to the challenge. Each step took great courage over a few days. For other believers it may take a couple of years or so. The key is to hand over to God whatever you can at each step with confession and you will eventually know complete release, blessing and freedom.

John was 76 years old and we had been married 48 years.

*Elizabeth
June 2020*

Cast **your** cares on the **LORD**
and he will sustain you;
he will **never** let
the righteous be **shaken**.

PSALM 55:22

Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



12-19-1997

I'M SORRY GUY, I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEALTH PLAN AND YOU GIVE OUT FREE GIFTS AND ALL, BUT JESUS REALLY DOES HAVE A MUCH BETTER PLAN



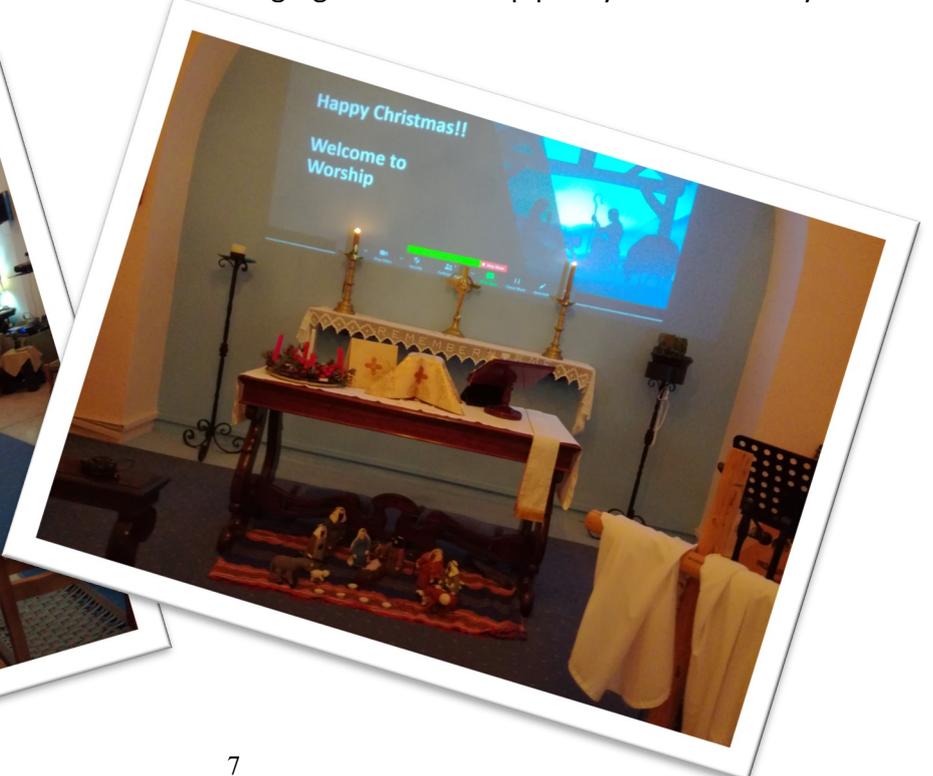
12-31-1997

THIS YEAR, FOR NEW YEARS, I AM RESOLVING TO DO ALL SORTS OF BAD THINGS SINCE I NEVER EVER STICK TO MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

CHRISTMAS in JTC



On the 20th December after the Zoom Sunday Service Jules had to rearrange the equipment to have a congregation present. Anne & Pauline prepared the Nativity Scene using Jean's knitted figurines. You will notice the position of the altar is different in the two photos. Jules changed the position of the altar after the first service as he had writing from the wall on his forehead. Seven people came to the first service leaving by the side door so that the church could be sanitized before admitting people for the second service. The second service there were eight in the congregation. Steve joined us playing his guitar. Christmas was different but the message remains the same. Christmas is also a family occasion, which we hope people will appreciate each other. The next service that we will be permitted to have a congregation will be Epiphany on 6th January.



PULSE PRAYERS



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight" *Proverbs 3.5-6*

Abba Father, Lord, thank you for the amazing ways that you have surprised us and equipped us this past year. How our worship, prayer and fellowship have developed and grown in your love. Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours forever and ever!

We thank you for:-

- Those who have offered their skills, learned new skills and have given so much of their time and energy.
- For those not living on the island contributing in a variety of ways.
- Our international choir.
- Those who worked hard to make the online catalogue a success and bless all those who supported it.
- Jules, for his inspiration and hard work. Continue to bless him with your Spirit, love, strength, health and enthusiasm.

We pray for:-

- Blessings on Trish and all the family with your peace and protection. Bring Trish back safe and healthy to Corfu.
- Continued provision, insight and vision for The Holy Spirit's guidance as we seek to go forward in togetherness and reach out to the community and beyond with the Light of Jesus.
- Progress with Cafe Logos documents, patience as we wait for it to happen in God's perfect timing, for inspiration and ideas in preparation.
- Families and friends to be virus free and safe in travelling.
- This coming year for a safe way for tourism to proceed and businesses to open.
- The Special Needs Vocational School, soon to open their new building. For teachers and pupils to be blessed in their work and achievements.
- Improved facilities for refugees as they wait for a place to settle and make new lives.
- Provision for The Hellenic Red Cross and charities, Irise work in the UK and Uganda and Sabina's kitchen in The Yemen.
- God of Comfort be close to the broken hearted. Visit those who have recently lost loved ones and those who are sick, touch them with your healing. Make your presence known to those who are dying and bring them to salvation.
- Through these uncertain times, we find our strength with you alongside us Lord Jesus, and pray that with the vaccine being distributed, new hope for health and daily provision.
- Guide the leaders of the nations to bring in your Kingdom of justice and righteousness. May we know no man by the coat he wears but the heart that Jesus sees.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

To be hosted by HTC 5th March 2021

‘BUILD ON A STRONG FOUNDATION’

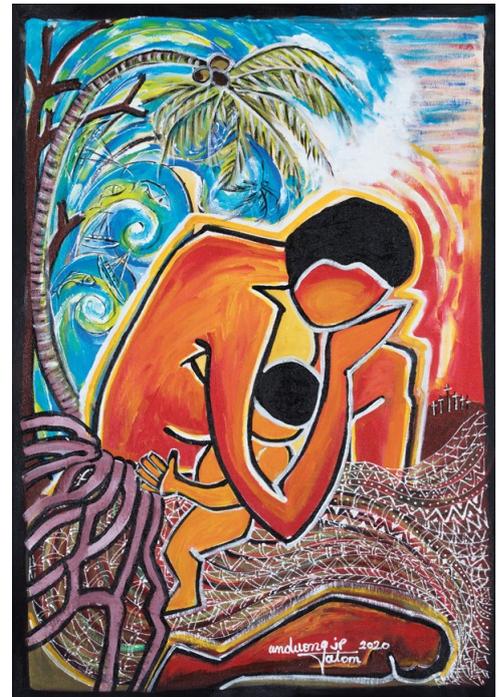
The World Day of Prayer this year has been prepared by the Christian Women of Vanuatu. On the other side of the world, nearly 2,000 miles east of northern Australia lies Vanuatu –an archipelago of 80 beautiful tropical isles. Sixty-five of which are inhabited, lies roughly in a Y - shape, extending 560 miles from north to south.

On the 6th April as the women were putting the finishing touches to the programme the island suffered a devastating tropical storm called Harold, the second category-5 Cyclone.

Through writing the 2021 service, representatives of the islands have developed an ecumenical relationship. The Vanuatu committee’s prayer is that the voice of Vanuatu women will be heard across the world and that in Vanuatu, health and educational opportunities will improve. They thank God for triumphs in key moments in their history and proudly declare their nation is built on the Rock of Ages, Christ the King.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organization which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia - Africa –the Middle East – Europe – the Americas before finishing in America Samoa some 38 hours later.



World Day of Prayer
England, Wales, & Northern Ireland

[Click HERE for more info](#)

my MAKER is my HUSBAND!

Here's the second testimony from Elizabeth.

You may or may not know my husband John died at the end of January very suddenly with an aortic aneurysm. He had been an elder at our church for 11 years.

“Do not be afraid. You will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood. For your Maker is your husband. The Lord Almighty is his name – the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth!”

Isaiah 54:4-5

So I want to tell you how 'My Maker has been my husband :-

Before John died however, I realised that My Maker was already like a 'second' Husband to me. Marriage has to be worked at. None of us have or are perfect partners. We all have weaknesses. At times my expectations of John were unrealistic as through either lack of knowledge, inability or tiredness, he was unable to be to me as I felt he should be. You all know what happens - criticism, judgement and tension comes in. However, Jesus said to me "There is a more excellent way". - that He was there to step in to be to me all that John was unable to be in spite of his love for me. Jesus showed me it was my responsibility before Him to change. When I was upset and needed comfort, Jesus was there and when I was cross he told me I was forgiven but needed to forgive etc. This gave me a greater understanding and compassion towards John and he began to change. As criticism and tension decreased love and patience increased and our relationship became closer and love grew stronger. (This would be the same if a husband was led to take the initiative to change, the wife would change too in the process).

Now John is no longer with me, I am relying on my Maker as my Husband in oh so many ways. He is my helper and friend, he guides and leads me in paths of righteousness. Here are two of many testimonies.:-

We had been married 48 years and much in our home is good quality but old and this is the case of the Hi Fi stack. It is in good working order and I use it every day for worship CD'S. However a few weeks ago the sound had gone. Everything else was working, the tape deck, the equaliser, the CD deck but there was



no sound. I checked all the leads and plugs more than once over two or three days thinking technology has moved on so much it was not going to be easy to get a technician who would understand this old equipment.



So I said to my Friend “Come on Jesus, you have to help me here”. I thought I would look again at it in the morning when my brain was fresh and alert! I got down on the floor to check leads etc. once again. John loved his technology and had fixed a small synthesiser box for surround sound to the dining room. As it was a hot day many of the house windows were open. I noticed a small black box. It was a microphone amplifier. “This is to do with sound” I thought. On careful inspection I saw in small white lettering ‘Battery’.

I did not realise that in all my efforts I had turned the volume up full. I changed the battery and when I switched the power on there was a tremendous boom of Hallelujahs from the CD and my voice which, with house windows open, was probably heard down the street I’m sure!! We don’t often think of Jesus as a technician do we? Thank you Jesus!



I am having to learn to be a motorist as John took most of the responsibility for the car and drove most of the time. I was in Tesco’s car park alongside a long sleek car which parked over the front line of the space. When I came to leave I misjudged the length of it and scratched my car on its bumper. I did not know what to do so I took a note of the number plate thinking if push came to shove I could trace the owner through DVLA. It was an older car and not much damage. I had a long deep scratch along the back door and a small dent.



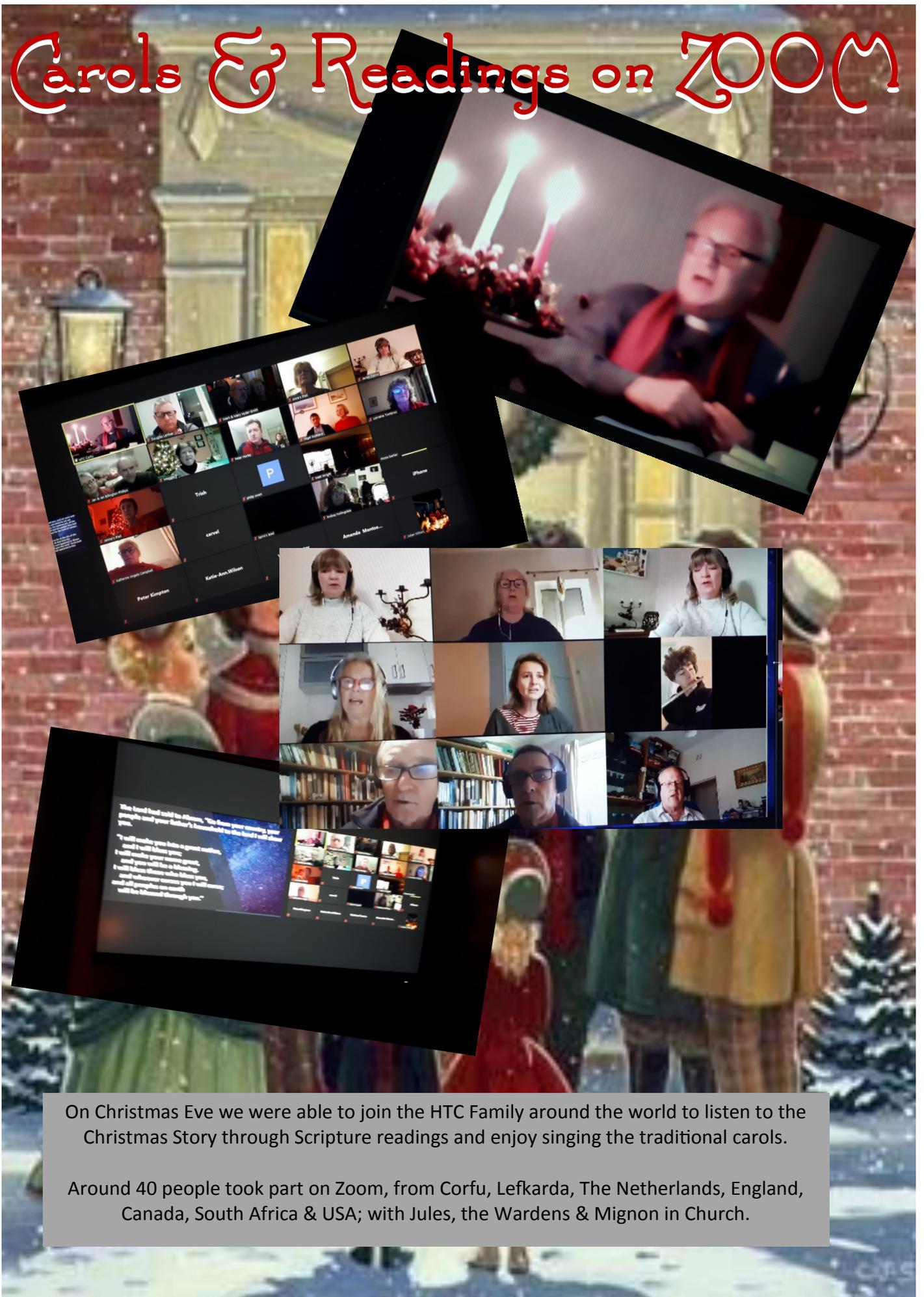
I had some more shopping to do and then went to Wimborne Market to see my nephew and he told me I should have put my mobile number under the windscreen wipers as there could be cameras around. So I decided I would go back to the car park to see if the car was there not thinking it would be after an hour and a half but it was!! AND what is more unbelievable, two ladies were walking towards the car. It was their car and I told them I had scratched the bumper and went to give my number. They were kind and said that I was not to worry about it and wouldn’t take my details.

I felt Jesus gave me wisdom to ask if it was her or her husband’s car. She said he wouldn’t even notice! However, sometimes people think differently later so I insisted she took my details and I felt I had closure. Isn’t that wonderful that after one and half hours the car was still there and I was able to see the owner? If I had not, the matter would have gone around and around in my mind for days with little peace on the matter. Jesus was being my helper and taking care of me and brought me peace.

These events and many others have given me full assurance that the presence of Jesus is with me always to be my husband, friend and helper. Hallelujah!

3rd September 2020

Carols & Readings on ZOOM!



On Christmas Eve we were able to join the HTC Family around the world to listen to the Christmas Story through Scripture readings and enjoy singing the traditional carols.

Around 40 people took part on Zoom, from Corfu, Lefkarda, The Netherlands, England, Canada, South Africa & USA; with Jules, the Wardens & Mignon in Church.

LOCAL NEED

FOOD COLLECTION

THERE ARE SEVERAL FAMILIES AND PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND FALLING INTO GREAT NEED AT THE MOMENT, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP. ITEMS COLLECTED WILL BE GIVEN TO THE **HELLENIC RED CROSS** TO DISTRIBUTE, AS WELL AS TO THOSE MADE KNOWN TO US

ITEMS NEEDED

Non perishable groceries
Canned food
Pasta
Rice
Beans and pulses
Milk
Tomato juice,
Juice for Children
Any kind of sweet things
Household Cleaning stuff
Toiletries
And most of all **OLIVE OIL**



For locals, items can be brought into the Church on Friday and Sunday Mornings 10am-12pm. If you would like to contribute, but are unable to do so because you are not on Corfu, then any donations offered will go towards a big shop.***

Thank you and Be Blessed.

*** To make a donation please contact HTC Treasurer, Christine Spatoula spatou@otenet.gr

WHAT'S ON at HTC

Keep up to date with what's on at Holy Trinity Corfu by visiting our website calendar.

<http://holytrinitycorfu.bravesites.com/whats-on>

OR



Links



DIOCESE
IN EUROPE

[https://
europe.anglican.org/
prayer-diary/prayer-
diary](https://europe.anglican.org/prayer-diary/prayer-diary)



INTERCONTINENTAL CHURCH SOCIETY

[https://www.ics-
uk.org/Pages/
Category/prayer-diary](https://www.ics-uk.org/Pages/Category/prayer-diary)

The
Agiot

[http://
www.theagiot.com/](http://www.theagiot.com/)



[https://
enimerosi.com/en](https://enimerosi.com/en)



[https://
www.facebook.com/
groups/CorfuForum/?
ref=group_header](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CorfuForum/?ref=group_header)

We always welcome contributions to our publications; however, we will not publish any material which infringes copyright. When sending in items for inclusion please state your source and the name of the author.

We are happy to accept prayer requests for inclusion in Pulse or in the morning service. If you are requesting prayer for someone other than yourself please make sure you have their permission to be mentioned publicly.

*Please remember the submission **deadline for PULSE is 25th of each month**. Articles, news, information etc. received after this time may not be included and will be carried over to the next edition if appropriate. Thank you.*

Editorial: htccorfupulse@gmail.com



HOLY
TRINITY
CORFU

21 L.Mavili Street, Corfu 49100

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN GREECE



www.holytrinitycorfu.net



htccorf@gmail.com



(0030) 6976 196 322



www.facebook.com/holy.corfu/