



PERSPECTIVE

Dear Friends,

I have really enjoyed exploring the Prayer Course over recent weeks and I'm looking forward to offering another opportunity in church and on zoom once the summer mayhem has come and gone. I have been struck again, by how we are able to take our whole lives to our Lord no matter what we are feeling or going through... and there is no question that life has its joys and its challenges, its ups and its downs.

SUCH A BLESSING

Take the last few weeks, for example, here on Corfu. It has been such a blessing to be able to worship together on Sundays with so many good friends returning and getting to know new friends as they visit for the first time. Our Lord has blessed these times with a deep and shared joy. At the same time, we're seeing more people catching the dreaded bug(!) and the pastoral care team, the visiting ICS chaplains and other members of the church family have been busy supporting those who are going through unanticipated traumas and unlooked for stressful situations.

And it's not just particular occasions or seasons in life, that can be such a mixed bag. Our everyday lives can be full of intensity - to lift us up and to wear us out. The constant blessings that we receive at our Lord's hand that we suddenly see for what they are - the beauty of His Creation, our families and friends, good food (and wine!) - can strike us at times with a profound 'giftedness' as we find ourselves amazed and thankful. And then a word said in haste, or a mistake made, or even the reminder of a relationship not healed, and we are right back to wrestling with ourselves.

Life can really feel like it's a curate's egg (now there's an odd expression)!

And we know that it makes all the difference to take all of this, as it happens, to our Lord Jesus who has lived this Himself and, even more incredibly, lives this with us, even as we experience these different facets of our lives.

As I have mentioned, the Prayer Course offers some fantastic insights, all based on the Lord's Prayer, into how we can immerse ourselves more completely within the life of God, as we are invited to do so by Jesus. It's not new, of course, but being reminded of the teaching of Jesus is always like opening a treasure chest again and finding that one thing that we needed to help us and just at the right time.



For example, it is too easy, in prayer, to jump in with all the stuff that's busying our minds... all the immediate issues of the moment. However, the Lord's Prayer guides us to begin in quite a different way. Jesus taught us to start with instead, "Our Father in Heaven, *hallowed be thy name*".

Why, given all that's on our busy to-do-list, would we start here?

The answer is, of course, because taking a few moments to pause and to tell our wonderful God just how wonderful He is, starts to put our own lives back in His perspective and reminds us straight away that it's all in His Hands. As we express to our God our love of Him and how we really do marvel at His graciousness and steadfastness towards us, we are not just telling our Lord what He already

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knows (!), we are coming back to the core of our very being. Talking with Nigel Scotland, (who is taking over while I'm on holiday this week), he reminded me that this is the very beginning of the Westminster catechism (which was written centuries ago to provide a touchstone for teaching the Christian faith). This is what it says:

Q1. *What is the chief end of man?*

A. *Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.*

Isn't that the right place to start?

IN HIS PRESENCE

And so it is with prayer. Whatever we are going to follow on with after this, as we bring our day and our current experiences to God, we are reminded that we have eternity to spend in His Presence and that being in His Presence is, and always will be, the source of our ultimate joy and fulfilment. It reminds us that our God is wonderful and that it is always in this context and with this in mind, that we bring our hopes and worries before him. It makes all the difference in the world to remember that our life with God is relational and transformational, not just a series of transactions and unconnected moments.

So, maybe we can make a point of remembering this guidance as those times come up during our day when we fire off those arrow prayers or smile in momentary thankfulness. Maybe we can teach ourselves to breathe, express to our Lord just how incredible we think He is and to simply be with Him and enjoy his company for a while. In short, to give Him glory and enjoy Him.

After all, this is just where Jesus teaches us to start.

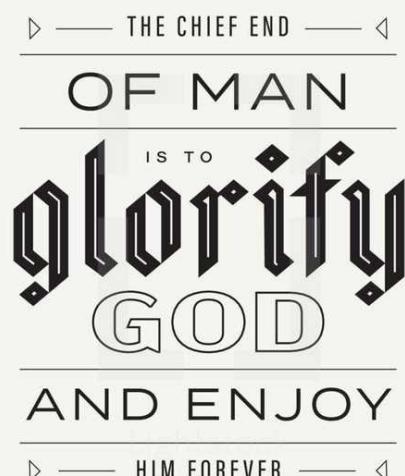
With every blessing,

Jules.

PS. If you fancy a quick Bible study from that catechism mentioned above, why not look up these verses (or even start to memorise them). If you don't have a Bible to hand, the links should take you straight to the verses.

Man's chief end is to glorify God: [Ps. 86:9](#); [Isa. 60:21](#); [Rom. 11:36](#); [1 Cor. 6:20](#); [10:31](#); [Rev 4:11](#)

And to enjoy Him forever: [Ps. 16:5-11](#); [144:15](#); [Isa. 12:2](#); [Luke 2:10](#); [Phil. 4:4](#); [Rev 21:3-4](#)



PULSE PRAYERS



O Lord, our heavenly Father, we thank you for the works of your hands that gave us the beautiful world we live in. Help us to protect and care for it.

We may feel anguish at world events, which, coming on top of the pandemic have caused us to be fearful, anxious, and unable to see a way forward. Be a guiding light to us, that we may confidently navigate our way through difficult times.

We praise you and give thanks for your church in the world. A church that has preserved and shared your word and been a safe haven for those who come to you in need. Thank you for our Bishops, Robert and David. Our Area Dean, Father Leonard, Jules and all clergy and lay ministers in the Diocese in Europe. Bless all their works and bring them rest and refreshment over the hot summer months.

We pray for all leaders, that they may seek to serve always with integrity and determination, being faithful to your word and encouraging all to right and just living.

We pray for our families and friends. For struggles with health, relationships and difficulties of our age. Help us to help one another and to witness to You meeting them in their need.

We pray for progress in the creation of the Logos Café and ask that you open the way to move forward with this project bringing a new dimension to worship at HTC Corfu.

We thank you for the Summer Mission work of our friends from ICS, whose visits here over the summer months enrich our worship and outreach together.

We pray for one another, that we all may recognize You in each of us and each of our unique situations. Whether in gladness or sorrow we thank you for being beside us, our strength, our guide, our rock. Amen.



The renewal of JACKIE DALLOS' Readers Licence on 26th June'



We constantly pray for you, that our God may continue to make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.



Tony's funeral in England was on 23rd June. Nigel & Anne kindly arranged for a beautiful wreath on behalf of HTC.

In memory of TONY DUNFORD.
Remembered by HTC with fondness & smiles

FRIENDLY FOCUS



This is the second in our series Friendly Focus where I interview a member of the church family and we find out a little more about them. Now we are able to move about more freely again it is lovely to meet face to face and celebrate what a diverse and amazing church we belong to at HTC.

Recently I had the pleasure to chat with **Madeline Rees** who many of us know as '**Mads**'.



Thank you Mads for agreeing to have a chat with me for The Pulse. Could I start by asking you to describe what bought you to HTC?

I came through Steve as he originally came to chat with Jules a few years ago about things and they got talking about playing music and leading worship. Jules suggested that he come along and get involved and he did! I was away at the time but then I came along too and it all went from there really through the music.

Mads for those people who don't know please could you tell us what your profession is and where you currently work?

Well, I'm a nurse and have been qualified since I was 21. I'm now 52 so I've been nursing for 31 years. I've worked in theatres and wards (recovery and HDU) and held various management roles. I work at the Royal London Hospital and recently have dropped from a management role to a junior sister. This has enabled me to work part time.

During the pandemic you were one of the few members of the church who had to travel to and from the UK in the most challenging times. Could you explain a little to us about what this was like.

Yes certainly....urm I think now a lot of it has been committed to the back of my memory. I can't believe that I was in a time like that. It was about how to stay safe and about trying to find the flights which were then cancelled. Then filling in forms, taking tests, allowing time for quarantine, all so I could be ready for work.

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There was an awful lot of juggling. When you are going through it you just keep going. Afterwards when you look back you then think wow that was actually really stressful. Going to work and coming home from work each day was very stressful. As, when I'm in the UK, I'm in my father's house. So it's all about keeping him and everyone safe. And not wanting to bring anything back to the island. So the situation was at certain times very, very, very difficult.

Fortunately for some people who live in Corfu they may have felt sheltered from the impacts of Covid in a wider sense. Could you summarise what this time meant for you and your colleagues you were working closely with?

I was blessed that at the very beginning when the first wave hit I wasn't there. I was delayed by about a month as Greece had totally shut down. As I spoke to my colleagues they were starting to see real difficulties and they were saying that all routine operations had stopped apart from emergency surgeries and redeployment started. Staff were being redeployed to Intensive Care. In Intensive Care there weren't enough beds so the theatres and recovery became the emergency environments.

Yes we heard and yes we saw that the first wave really affected my colleagues. Risk awareness on all staff was carried out to see who could be safely deployed depending on their health. I stayed in a theatre environment.

Then it all happened again at the second wave.

Can you summarise in a few words then what this time meant for you and those you worked closely with?

In a few words? Traumatising. Fear and worrying. Everyone knew somebody, a family member, a colleague.....

People knew people - people knew patients, people knew colleagues all who were supposedly quite fit and well and who then became quite unwell. Some of the doctors became their own admissions to hospital. Some colleagues died as well as their patients, who died.

My experience was different to some of my colleagues who were in ITU and worked during the Delta wave as then patients were literally coming in and dying. I would say there are a lot of really different emotions and I would say they are still being worked through.

Moving on to a lighter topic. What are your favourite things about Corfu?

Well everyday and everywhere you look you get a different natural view. The abundance of nature is quite incredible. The town, the way that it has so many different influences. The Italian influence is incredible and the people are lovely and friendly. I like its naturalness. It is quite unkempt and not pristine but that is the beauty of Greece. It has such natural beauty. I love hiking and walking and I have mapped out and journaled many of the walks around the island.

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As someone who spends an equal amount of time in Greece and the UK have you felt the impact of Brexit?

Yes. I think what's very sad is that our freedoms and movements around Europe that I enjoyed growing up have become harder to do. I couldn't be here in the capacity I am without having the privilege of residency and having gone through that system.

I think that when people young or old want to travel and experience different cultures nowadays it is now harder and less accessible and that's a real shame. I think there is so much division anyway that having people united should be a priority.

What would you say if a friend asked your advice about living in Corfu?

I would say come and see this amazing, beautiful island and come and be part of this people and culture and life and all of those things. Rent and live here for a while and see if it is what you really want to do. There are extremes here like the weather and buildings and sometimes you don't know these things until you live here and experience it all.

What do you miss about the UK when you are here?

Friends and family but apart from that there isn't much that I can't get or do here. Everything is accessible here.

Which country do you consider to be home.

I consider here definitely.

Let's end on a more tricky and personal two part question. How would you describe your relationship with God? Did your faith sustain you during the difficult time you were describing earlier?

That's a nice question. I would describe my relationship as easy with God. I can see His beauty and His love and His help in everything that I do. Mmm that presence is sort of ever surrounding and I think that to have that peace that I can achieve is not through me it's through Him. And I think that gratitude and that thanks and that peace is really, really important to me. Yeah that's how I would describe my relationship.

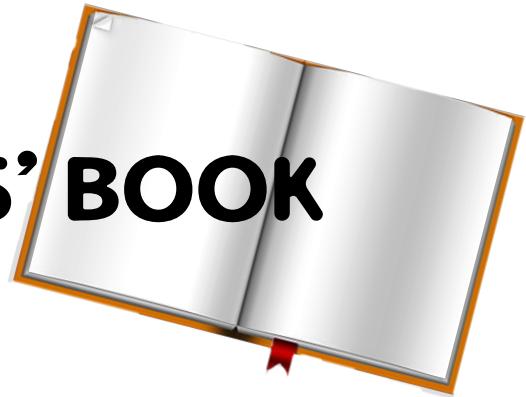
And the second part? Did your faith sustain you through the very difficult two years we have had?

Yes I think it does every day even now my gratitude my asking for peace in the day and the support in the day is very, very important for me and I think without that the hardships would be just so much harder to deal with and where they are at really.

Thank you Mads for taking the time to do this interview and talking about some difficult topics. It has been really interesting and thought provoking. Trish



...from the VISITORS' BOOK



'The highlight of our holiday was our visits to H.T.C, and we return to UK significantly stronger spiritually.'

Former residents of Corfu.

'I arrived in Corfu on May 14th to visit Thelma and I came to church with her on the 15th. It was such a friendly and welcoming experience; I loved the relaxed, caring feeling and all the live music. Thank you Jules and everyone for making me feel so welcome. A very peaceful and spiritual place. I look forward to returning.'

"Fantastic service and music, thank you Jules and God Bless."

Wimslow

'What a wonderful uplifting service, loved the music.'

Aberdeen Scotland

'Filled so many times by the Spirit, praise God.'

Gosport

'Praise The Lord'

Spain

Where have they been lately?

Greetings All! We just wanted to give an overview of our time in Romania, as well as the rest of our ministry these last several months.

First of all, for those Pulse readers that are not familiar with us, we are Matthew and Cindy Wright. After many years serving in Albania as missionaries, we began our own ministry in 2014 providing pastoral care for missionaries. We relocated from Albania to here in Corfu and were happy to become a part of the congregation here at Holy Trinity. We had to return to the US in late 2019 due to a family illness and then got stuck over there during the pandemic, but this year we have once again been able to travel for our ministry.

Back in January, we were asked to go to Lesvos to provide pastoral care for the volunteers working in the refugee camp there. We were able to spend about 6 weeks helping out with training, counselling, and debriefing for the young people working in the Mavrovouni camp. As we finished our time there we came back to Corfu for a visit. While here, Russia invaded Ukraine. We immediately reached out to friends of ours who were planting a church in Pitesti, Romania to see if they were involved in helping the refugees. These conversations led to that church starting a small refugee camp on a piece of property that they had been given. Things began to happen very quickly and ISO boxes were ordered to house the refugees that were coming. The first ISO boxes arrived on a snowy day and eventually others were added. Each box can house one family unit.



In early March we returned to the US and two and a half weeks later we flew back to Corfu, picked up our vehicle, and drove up to Romania so we could offer grief counselling and support for the refugees at that camp. We were able to spend 2 months there and were able to minister to the refugees and equip one of the Ukrainian couples to lead others through a program called "Beyond Disaster" which walks survivors through the process of grieving. The camp currently houses about 50-55 Ukrainians that have been displaced due to the war.

There are only 3 adult men in the camp - they were allowed to leave Ukraine because they had 3 or more children. The rest of the camp is made up of women and children that had to leave fathers and husbands and older sons and brothers behind. One woman discovered she was pregnant with child number 3 after she arrived in the camp, but her husband is still not allowed to leave, since all men of fighting age are needed in Ukraine. Another old woman, one of the grandmas, has recently discovered she has advanced pancreatic cancer and will be put into hospice care. She will likely die far from her home and much of her family. Every family has a story, and each one is heart-breaking. Please continue to pray for the people affected by this senseless war and ask God to bring peace - peace in the hearts of those who are displaced

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or have lost loved ones, and peace overall - and end to the war. We also had the opportunity to minister to the missionary family there and to do some counselling for members of their church.



(Photos from Children's Day at the camp with activities for the kids)



(L to R: Cindy and Matt with "Sasha" and "Masha" - key leaders in the camp we were able to disciple; The group that went through "Beyond Disaster" with us.)

After leaving Pitesti at the beginning of June, we went to Thessaloniki where we were able to provide a debrief for a long-term missionary working in Lesvos. We then headed to Albania and did a debrief for a missionary couple serving there. This couple has been deeply affected by the war in Ukraine - he is Ukrainian and she is Brazilian. In fact, the husband, Igor, was able to come to Pitesti for a couple of weeks to act as a translator for us.

As I write this, we are back in Corfu for just a few more days. Soon we will head back to the US to try to wrap up some loose ends on that side of the ocean so that we can return to this side of the ocean and continue the ministry God has given us. We are so grateful for the church family we have found at HTC and for the way so many have faithfully prayed for us and donated to our ministry while in Romania.

Matt & Cindy



WORSHIPPING TOGETHER AGAIN



A nearly full church with visitors, locals, ICS chaplain, and returnees on 19th June.



The Safe Space

Have you recently lost someone you love? Are you feeling isolated or anxious? Does the world seem overwhelming and scary since the pandemic? Is your mental well-being languishing or your self-esteem low? Then perhaps it would be beneficial to spend an hour in the "Safe Space".

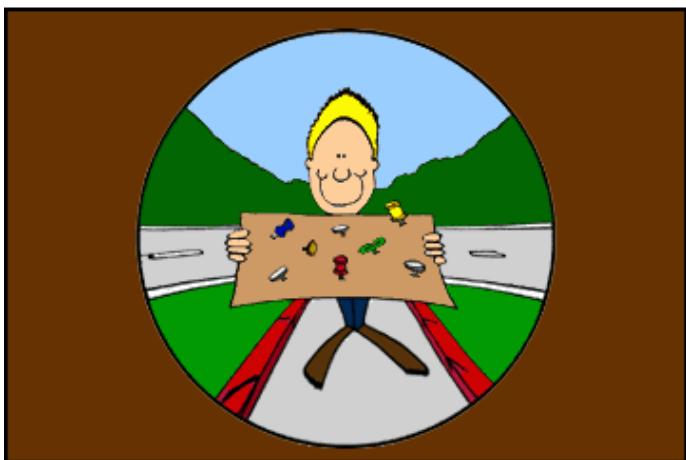
The Safe Space is an informal Christian counselling setting where you can receive one-to-one confidential on-line space to explore your feelings

To book an appointment:

email Trish: trishmariawilson@gmail.com or phone: 0030 6986644271

<https://sites.google.com/view/trish-wilson-christian-counsel/home>

Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



NO ONE IS FEARED MORE THAN THE TACKS
COLLECTOR



OY ... WHAT'S THIS? I ASK FOR A
CONCUBINE AND THEY SEND YOU?



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

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

OR



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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.

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