



BUT...IS JUST *BEING* ENOUGH?

Dear Friends,

I am sure that we have often heard the phrase, something like; we are human beings not human doings! Such a phrase is often offered in the context of someone who is overdoing it at work or has allowed their work or career to define who they are. It's meant as an antidote to the "we are what we do " imbalance that can slip into life when we become over absorbed with some aspect of our personal achievements. The emphasis on human *being* rather than *doing* is also an important aspect of our relationship with God.

THE ULTIMATE GIFT

We are taught by Jesus that we are inherently valuable (even the hairs on our heads are counted Matthew 10:29) and that it is through His gift that we are able to know and live with God's presence as part of our lives. As St. Paul puts it so perfectly in Ephesians 2:8-9 (NRSV): "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and *this is not your own doing*; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast." So we are intrinsically valuable to our Lord and Maker, saved by our friend and saviour with the presence of the Holy Spirit as the ultimate gift in our lives. This is what it means to be a human *being*. All good, but... is just *being* enough? Is a thankful, blissful existence even full spiritual peace, the end? Paul goes onto say in Ephesians 2:10 (NRSV): "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus *for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life*". That sounds like *doing*, doesn't it? And it is. Our Lord has created us to *be* at peace, to grow in our loving relationships with Him and each other *and* to find fulfilment by expressing that love by *doing* what it is we are called to do in this life. Being and doing actually plait together in our lives - it's not one or the other!

Maybe that is why the Bible teaches us about spiritual *fruit* and spiritual *gifts*. Spiritual *fruit* are nurtured in the way we *are* in ourselves - our *being*. The fruit come from the formation of our souls, by the work of the Holy Spirit, through our relationships with each other and Him. We become who we can be in Jesus through our relationships. It makes me laugh how many times I have been praying and feeling all holy and peaceful then something has happened that has shaken me back into life and I've found myself frowning and impatient. It's ironic. The fruit are only "real" when they grow for "real" in our relationships with others. We all love the concept of being patient, just please don't give me anyone annoying that I'm going to have to help out and be patient with!



The spiritual gifts, on the other hand, are geared towards our doing - fulfilling our calling for the kingdom. The Holy Spirit knows that our work for the kingdom will require His wisdom and understanding for it to mean anything... when it comes to the wonders of God's heart and the breadth of His vision we are going to need to have this revealed to us in order to be able to shape our ac-

(Continued on page 2)

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tions to fit His ways. Again, the spiritual gifts are about others... about serving others and for "building up the church" (1 Co 14:12). It is one of the wonders of God's ways that although the spiritual gifts are given that we may bless others, we do find our personal fulfilment too when we are walking in God's purpose for us and growing in those gifts. It's the way God seems to work. We find release when we forgive others; we find ourselves blessed when we give to others. In God's spiritual economy, the spiritual blessings can never be used up - they just multiply! And, of course, we only need the Spirit's gifts if we are going to *do* something. If we choose to spend our lives in splendid isolation, focused on the simple pleasures of living without helping out with Kingdom mission - we don't need gifts for that... and we are unlikely to experience the kind of multiplication of purpose and richness of life which goes along with growing in them. We are called to our individual purpose... but the call requires an answer. And the answer needs to be outwardly motivated.

IT'S THE STARTING POINT

And this is because there is one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit and one particular gift of the Spirit that comes first above all others - love. It's the starting point for everything in the Christian Life. We are shown the amazing love of God in Creation - an incredible sharing of His creative love; we are shown God's love in Jesus self-emptying to come among us trusting that His sacrifice will release in us the desire to love others as He does; we experience the power of God's love in our daily lives as the Holy Spirit shares every breath with us, encouraging us to be who we are born to be. It is an expression of God's love that the Holy Spirit is inter-

ested enough in each of us to empower us to find our fulfilment in Him. Love, that desire to be a person whose presence is a blessing to others and the will to act for the good of others - is the start and end point of our being and our doing. And we cannot love on our own. Love exists and grows only between subject and object, between you and me, ourselves and others and ultimately between a person and God.

With this in mind, we are going to start a new series in the Pulse over the coming months looking at the spiritual gifts as a means of inviting us all to explore where and what Jesus is calling us to *do*. We are entering a very different time in the life of the church, yet the purpose of our mission and ministry remain unchanged - to make the Lord Jesus Christ known in the world and to encourage human beings (and doings) to live and grow in His Kingdom ways - the ways that lead to life in all its fullness.

As always, I am very aware as I write that many of us have walked with Jesus for a long time. We have many experiences and insights to share. So I would ask that if there is something that you think would help us all to know at this time, then please do share it. We are going to need all the insight, revelation and imagination that we collectively have to embrace the challenge of the months ahead and to find ways in which we can develop our mission and ministry for His Kingdom. The good news is that He has the answers! I'm looking forward to see where He leads us. I hope you are too.

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 is also a Monday 'virtual' home group and 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>

ZOOM CHARITY QUIZ

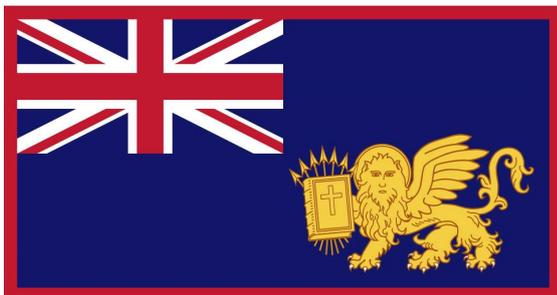


Friday 12th June

6:30pm. BST (UK) 8:30pm. EEST (Greece)

All proceeds to Charities

*Special Needs Vocational School, Korakiana, Corfu.
& The Emergency Food Kitchen, The Yemen.*



Join with suggested donation
10.00 € per person.
Register or any questions
email htccorfu@gmail.com

Including questions on the British in Corfu!



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WHO ARE YOU?



*Our roving reporter went to find out more about JANE LANFEAR (a member of HTC's Church Council).
...well actually it was a phone call!*

PULSE: *Place of birth?*

JANE: **Wales.**

PULSE: *Favourite colour?*

JANE: **Blue.**

PULSE: *Tea or Coffee?*

JANE: **Neither!**

PULSE: *If you could be anyone in the Bible who would you be?*

JANE: **One of the disciples, so I could follow Jesus around and hear all of his teaching.**

PULSE: *(I thought it would have been Jonah, as Jane is from Wales!)*

PULSE: *Best film?*

JANE: **Pretty Woman.**

PULSE: *Cat or dog?*

JANE: **Cat.**

PULSE: *Trousers or skirt?*

JANE: **Trousers.**

PULSE: *Hobbies?*

JANE: **Sewing and reading.**

PULSE: *I guess not at the same time!*

PULSE: *Tennis or Rugby?*

JANE: **I'm Welsh—of course it's Rugby!**

PULSE: *Best bit of the Bible?*

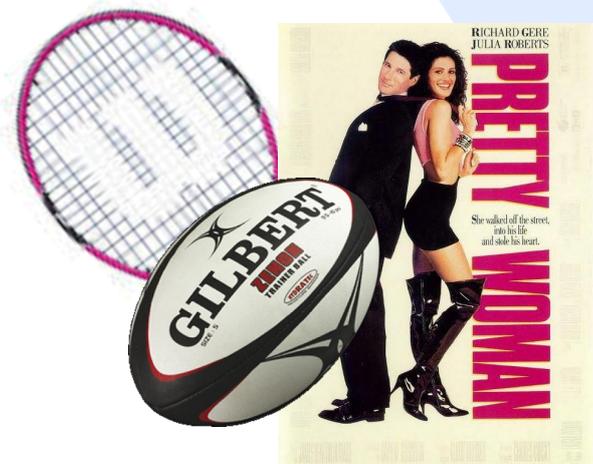
JANE: **Jesus is alive and will return!**

PULSE: *Take-away. Indian or Chinese?*

JANE: **Indian.**

PULSE: *Last book you read? (apart from the Bible).*

JANE: **I can't remember the title; it was a murder mystery.**



**** Let us know if you liked this snapshot of someone at HTC. Maybe more could follow in future editions. ****

PULSE PRAYERS



Lord, how majestic you are. Holy Spirit breathe more life into this world, refresh and revive believers, touch those not yet believers, and turn world leaders and people to your love, compassion, wisdom and discernment. Thy kingdom come.

We thank you that Danny and Anne are safely back in Corfu; for Joshua Ward and others who have been healed and pray for Christine's niece Becci's son Quinn, hubby Steve and son Parker and others who are sick. Andrea's niece's husband Gary. We pray for those who are in mourning, the vulnerable, elderly, those worried, confused and anxious about health, finance and every day needs. Those on the front line, carers and community servers.

We ask for solutions for the so many displaced people. We pray for Sabina and her kitchen in the Yemen, and pray she receives all that is needed. Provision for 'Irise' charity, especially at this time of confinement where domestic abuse has risen, children orphaned and having to look after themselves.

We pray especially for young people at this time. Students away from home, confined, bored, frustrated or angry and under mental stress. Those whose education and plans for the first part of their working life are so uncertain. Help them turn to you Lord, in their confusion bring them hope for the future. Renew their minds and fill their hearts with hope and your joy. Protect our children, free them from fears and anguish of this world. Give them the confidence they need to rise above all unjust happenings in the world and follow the paths of righteousness. May they do this hand in hand with you.

We give thanks for the beauty of your creation and the privilege of living on this beautiful island. We pray for farmers and good crops, especially the olives this year.

We give thanks for the waste problem being

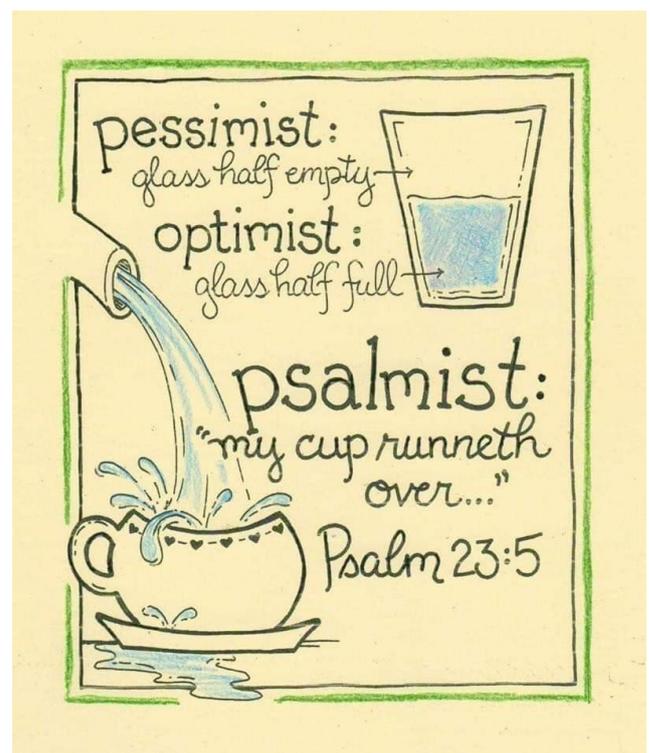
solved. As much needed tourism begins, we pray for your protection, wisdom for the government and restraint from people as lockdown is eased.

We give thanks for the unity of The Spirit and our visitors worshipping with us online from all over the world. Lord bless them and keep them. Continue to bless and inspire Jackie in Lefkada, who has been such a comfort pastorally at this time.

Holy Spirit, lead us in your direction show us clearly and give insight the next steps of mission and ministry here, using new ways especially to reach those who don't know you.

See through to completion the legalities of the Cafe Logos approval, that it may be a place of comfort and joy to many.

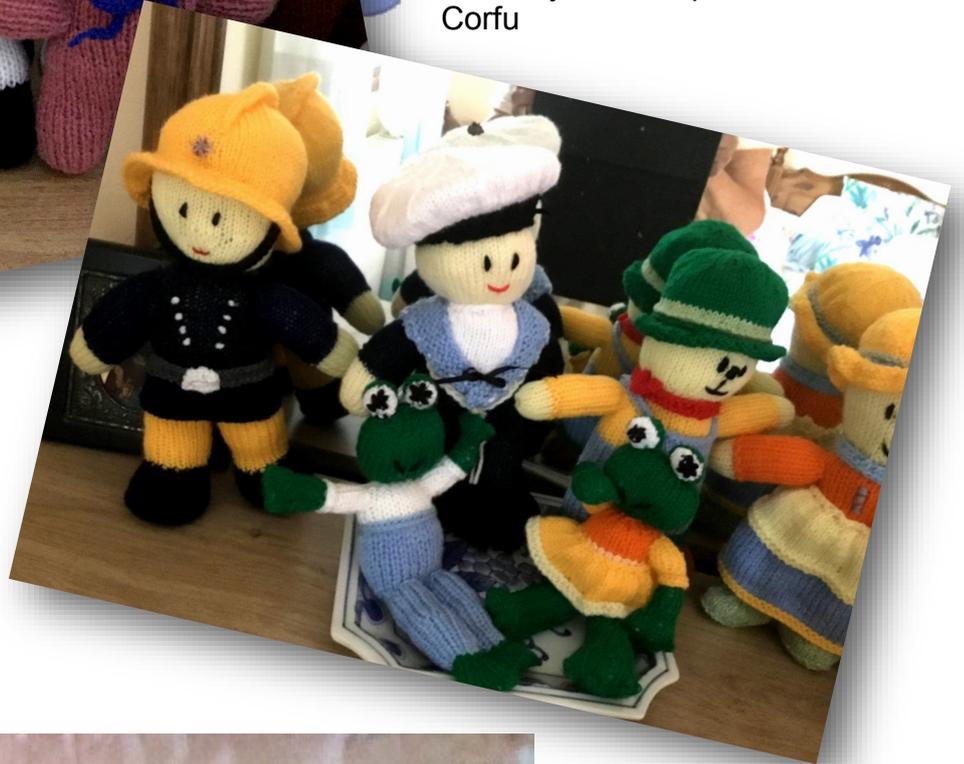
Hallowed be your name, Thy kingdom come
Amen.



Arts & Crafts Corner



Hand knitted characters
made by Jean Papas—
Corfu



A decoupage cushion face by Rita Almanou—Corfu



Maggie Stamatelou used YouTube during lockdown to help her crochet this doll for her granddaughter Anastasia and a wardrobe of clothes for her!

Two water colours from
Jean Papas—Corfu

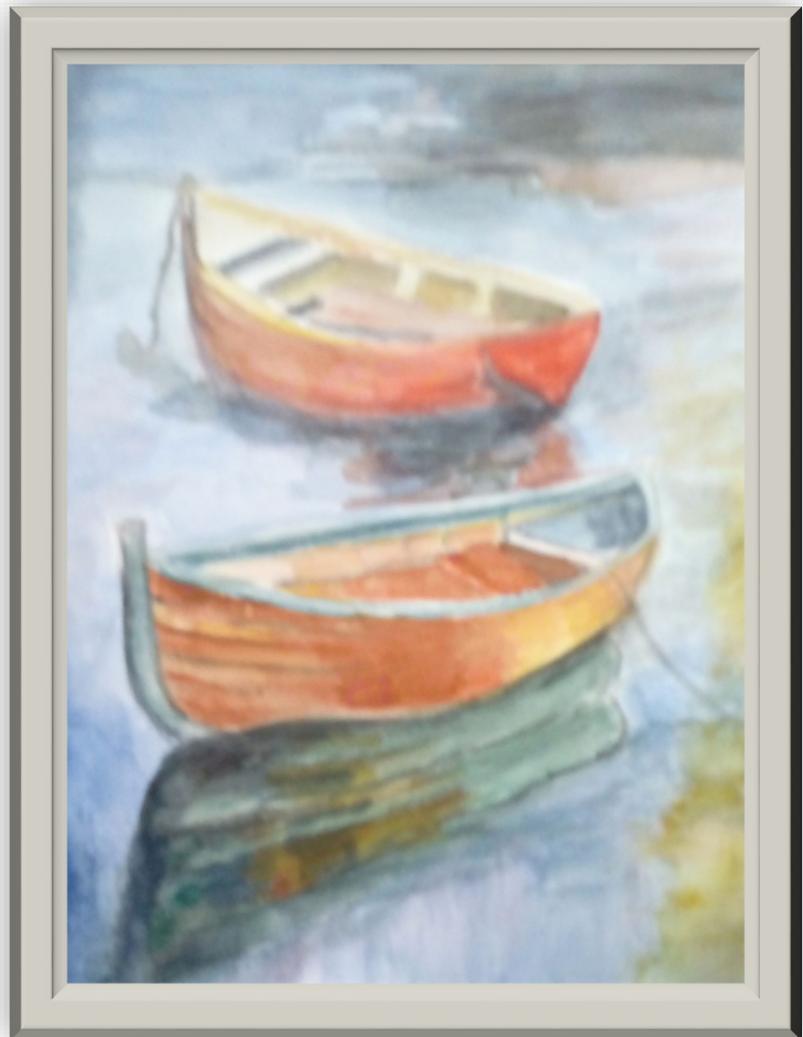


Brush pen drawing—
Clare Doig—Scotland



Acrylic seascape
by Rita Alamanou—Corfu

Two boats
Water colour by
Maria Smyth - Corfu



FRUIT and GIFTS



PART ONE - LOVE

This is the first article in a series exploring the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit. As I have already mentioned in my letter this month, the fruit of the Spirit are ways in which the life of Jesus within us finds expression in the way we are, who we are becoming; the gifts of the Spirit are the ways in which the Holy Spirit works through us so that we can play our part in building God's kingdom. And there is one particular gift and fruitful aspect of our lives that is necessary above all others... and that is love.

Like many of us, I imagine, I do some of my best thinking and praying while I am occupied with something physical; walking, swimming or at this time of the year in Greece... strimming! So, as I was strimming last night I was thinking and praying that God would guide me now as I attempt to talk about God's love. My first thought was that it was an extremely arrogant thing to expect to be able to do... to teach about love. Love has inspired the greatest minds, artists, philosophers and theologians for as long as humans have been able to articulate a sentence - who am I to even attempt to add to this corpus!

It made me think of my first foray into youth work some 25 years ago with a particularly academically capable group of young people. I had this idea to talk about love as a starting point and was completely flummoxed when in answer to the question, "What is love", the immediate response was "an abstract noun". O dear I thought. This is going to be tricky!

But what does go through your mind when you think about love? How do we express what love feels like... our wedding day, holding our children for the first time, the unconditional support of parents. But when it comes to thinking about the fruit and gifts of the Spirit, this is missing the point. These experiences, although clearly defined by love at their core, were not really fruit or gifts of the Spirit in the sense we are thinking of here. They are emotional responses to the wondrous beauty that life can offer at times. I imagine we all experience love as an overwhelming feeling of delight at the presence of others in our lives - people we care deeply for, people we would not want to lose, people we long to see happy and well and... blessed.

Now imagine having those same desires for the person that is hammering nails into your

FRUIT and GIFTS



hands and laughing at your misfortune. Imagine longing for the person who hoists you naked in front of a jeering crowd to be blessed and forgiven. Imagine straining to look through eyes half closed with violence and pain at people who are mocking you in your suffering and wanting for them only peace and fullness of life.

Now we are beginning to approach an understanding of love as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Love as Jesus shows us. When we say, "God is love", this is the love we mean. Human life can be beautiful; remember the film *Love Actually* and the expressions of warm emotion at airports as people see other after a long time. Wonderful, warm emotions. But this love is not something we usually need help with. We love those we love! We almost can't help it. But what about others... those we don't really like, or worse, those who we see doing harm to us? It's as Jesus says in the sermon on the mount in Matthew 5,

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, *that you may be children of your Father in heaven.*"

Love, the fruit of the Spirit, is *this* love - beyond warm emotional ties. Jesus goes on to say,

"If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others?"

In other words, the children of God, those through whom the Holy Spirit is working, love in this different way. For St. John, this ability to love those who you may not actually like, or worse, is actually the mark of someone who understands what it means to follow Jesus. He says this in 1 John 2:

"Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness."

This fruit of love is as high above our natural human love as Jesus is above us. So although we use the same word, we are in fact being taught about something that is of a different order. St John again, explains it like this:

"Dear friends, *I am not writing you a new command but an old one*, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. *Yet I am writing you a new command*; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining."

St John says since the law of Moses the heart of following God has been to love God and love your neighbour - so it's not a new command but an old one; and yet the nature of this love as shown to us in Jesus is a new

FRUIT and GIFTS



command because the nature of that love is so much deeper and richer. It is something we are unable to be like on our own... we need the Holy Spirit to release this way of loving into our lives. Desiring to love as Jesus does, recognising those feelings of anger, retaliation, hurt pride, hatred... whatever thoughts come between us and others... and then wrestling with those feelings and inviting the Holy Spirit to transform them into prayers and a desire to have them silenced... this is bearing the fruit of love from the Holy Spirit.

The gift of love will follow the fruit... an empowerment to act from that changed heart. To find the words to discharge a tense situation; to find the courage to try and heal a broken relationship; to act to fight the causes of violence and hatred; to wage peace... this becomes the work that we do empowered by the gift of love.

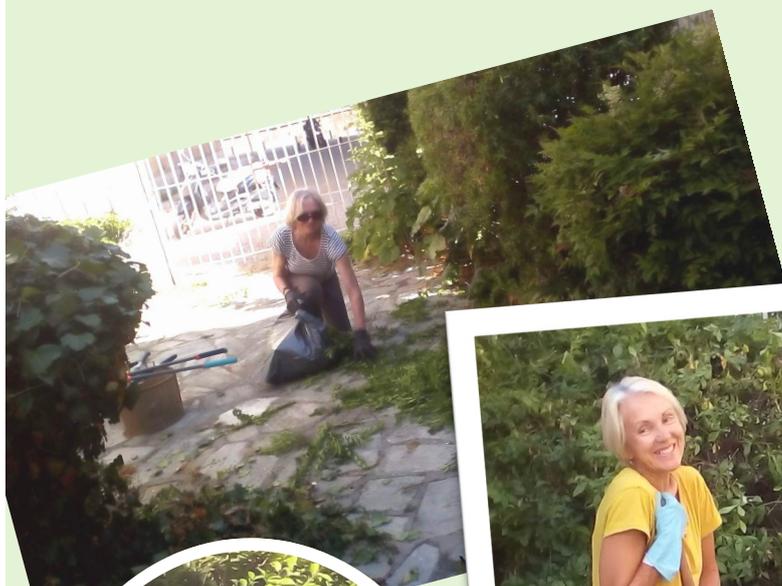
So we don't need to be poetic about love, or philosophically articulate about the nature of love... we only need to point to Jesus. We love because He first loved us. The Holy Spirit will show us how.

Practically speaking, how do we apply this to our lives that we may help the Holy Spirit help us? We start by realising the difference between the love that is natural to us and love that will need the supernatural power of the Spirit. We can think about those people we know that we struggle to like, let alone love. We pray for them as Jesus taught us to... asking that they are blessed and hold them in our prayers. We are alert to when negative feelings and thoughts towards others arise in us, again try and quickly turn those thoughts into prayers. We ask the Holy Spirit to show how we can act in love towards those we struggle with.

I'm sure that we have many stories where we have experienced the fruit and gift of love from the Holy Spirit. I would love to hear from you about them that we can grow in this together. Do let me know at julesjwilson@gmail.com.



GARDEN PARTY



During the Coronavirus lockdown in Corfu we weren't allowed to visit the church building; but that didn't stop the plants and greenery from growing! In preparation for using the building for the first time in a couple of months a BIG tidy up of the garden was needed.

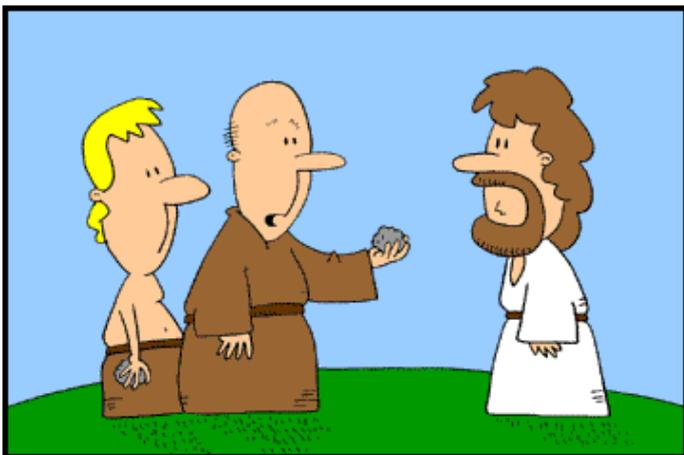
Thanks to everyone who got involved.

Spring Time in Corfu



Pictures by Mark Hyder-Smith

Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



Thanks to Paul Gladney (See John 8:1-11) 06-03-1999
UMM JESUS ... WE WERE GOING TO SKIP SOME ROCKS AT THE POND BUT IT SEEMS YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CAST THE FIRST STONE



Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Matthew 6:21) 06-04-1999
ARRRR ... THIS IS WHERE ME TREASURE IS, NOW WHERE DID I PUT ME HEART?

What's on at Holy Trinity Corfu

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|--|
| Mon | 1 | 18:00 | Home Group On-Line |
| Wed | 3 | 9:30 | FB Prayer Group |
| Fri | 5 | 09:30 | Prayer at HTC & FB |
| Sun | 7 | 10:30 | Family Communion at HTC & On-line |
| Mon | 8 | 18:00 | Home Group On-line |
| Wed | 10 | 9:30 | FB Prayer Group |
| Thurs | 11 | 18:00 | Church Council Meeting |
| Fri | 12 | 09:30 | Prayer at HTC & FB |
| | | 20:30 | Zoom Charity Quiz On-Line |
| Sun | 14 | 10:30 | Family Communion at HTC & On-Line |
| Mon | 15 | 18:00 | Home Group On-Line |
| Wed | 17 | 9:30 | FB Prayer Group |
| Thurs | 18 | 9:15 | Pastoral Care Group |
| Fri | 19 | 09:30 | Prayer at HTC & FB |
| Sun | 21 | 10:30 | Family Communion at HTC & On-Line |
| Mon | 22 | 18:00 | Home Group On-line |
| Wed | 24 | 9:30 | FB Prayer Group |
| Fri | 26 | 09:30 | Prayer at HTC & FB |
| Sun | 28 | 10:30 | Service of the Word & AGM |
| Mon | 29 | 18:00 | Home Group On-Line |

Links



<https://europe.anglican.org/prayer-diary/prayer-diary>



<https://www.ics-uk.org/Pages/Category/prayer-diary>



<http://www.theagiot.com/>



<https://enimerosi.com/en>



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: htccorfulpulse@gmail.com



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