



EXCUSE OR REASON?

Dear Friends,

I've just finished speaking (and praying) with the other chaplains and readers across Greece who are about to have to dig themselves out following the heavy snowfalls across the South of the country. But not here in Corfu or in Lefkada - just the frost. I have to confess to almost being a little... jealous. I always loved snow days! The feeling that you get when you know the day is going to be a little different. Even better when everyone says to themselves that the weather is just too bad for the normal working day to continue. An excuse or a reason? As long as we were all feeling the same and we all received the free pass - that's good enough for an unexpected break. And, especially when the children were home, it meant sledging, snowball fights and snowmen.



OH NO, NOT AGAIN

But I did say... almost jealous. The last couple of years have worn out the idea that forced cancellations and unexpected quieter days hold any kind of pleasant surprise. Now the response is more of a sigh and an, "Oh no, not again!" And those children that were around to make the day so special are now having their own plans thwarted, seeing their lives stalled and their plans interrupted. And it has been going on for a long time.

The exciting thing about a break from the norm, is that it is a break... not the norm. A chance to lay down the responsibilities for a while, knowing that we're going to pick them up again. But what happens when the break becomes the norm? What happens if we get so used to the idea, collectively, that everyday is a potential snow day? We could choose to battle through, pushing the boulder uphill or... we could sit down and watch that rock roll right back to the bottom of the hill. And how long before it simply becomes too hard to start again? Why were we even pushing that rock anyway?! Looking ahead to a time when we can all safely get on with planning our lives with a sense of assurance that those plans will unfold(!) I wonder if we're going to need to find the extra resources, the extra inspiration to break out of months and months of enforced 'snow-days' and reimagine our lives when everything is again... possible!

Talking at church, someone said to me that, in some ways, the impact of the necessary restrictions we've shared has struck right at the heart of how we express, in our daily lives, our Christian faith. Whether it's deeply symbolic (like being unable to share the one cup or physically share the peace) or relational (not being able to share fellowship, food and wine or visit each other with the same ease) or in our mission and ministry (laying on hands for healing, inviting others in person to events or celebrations); the life of the church family has been hard hit.

I am so grateful for the ways in which we have stayed together even with these restrictions and done what we can - and we will keep on doing the best we can. There are wonderful developments which have been able to draw us together across great distances - and we thank God for them - and each other!

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At the same, we are, at some point, hopefully not too far away, going to need to muster the resources and conviction to get back to it!

When I think back on my life so far, it always seems to be in ‘phases’ or ‘chunks of time’. The times when we lived in a certain place, or the time we did this particular work, or the children were at a particular phase in their lives. In the future, looking back, these times of restriction that we are living through now will no doubt be a ‘time’; a phase of life defined uniquely by how we lived then. The question is.. What will the next phase be like?

What and who do we feel called to become during

this next phase? How will Jesus find His expression in our lives? What will we do with our re-discovered freedom!?

I have returned to this particular prayer, from a book about Elijah the prophet, time and time again over the last twenty years. It continually reminds me of the journey that we are on and that we are not there yet and that there is so much more to come. So I share it again. Maybe you could pray it with me, looking ahead to where Jesus is calling us and allowing His Spirit to dare and inspire us to look ahead and see where He is leading each one of us.

With every blessing, Jules.

A Prayer of dreams yet unfulfilled...

*I dream and go on dreaming for I must
A man without a dream is dead already
He has given up the race of life
He has not yet reached the peak and has stopped pursuing it
and turned to amble down the hill again and leave his life unfulfilled.
A man of emptiness settling for small things that don't really satisfy
He leaves no mark in this world
Oh God don't let me be that man
Though I slip and fall help me to keep on climbing
And though each brow reveals another and the peak is yet beyond
May I keep on pursuing as a man possessed, possessed by God
Moved by vision stirred with passion invincible within*

*May no cliff face deflect me
No rock fall deter me
No difficulty hold me back*

*And may I never, never, never head down that hill again and let life's goal elude me
Oh my God, be my Beacon, my Companion
my Guide and Helper, my strength and life.
May I climb in the footsteps of the one who climbed Golgotha's Hill
who set his face like flint with resolution of steel who turned not back
but turned that hill into the greatest hill of history,
achieving there the greatest victory this world has ever known*

*He made his mark in this world, the greatest mark
that stands out more clearly now than ever
As increased millions put their trust in him.*

*May he make his mark in me
and go on living in this world in me
and go on climbing hills in me
until we reach the peak
and he sees his desires fulfilled in me.*

PULSE PRAYERS



Jesus answered: 'Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, "I am the Messiah," and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth-pains. *Matthew 24:4-8*



Lord Almighty, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Great I Am, gentle Saviour and humble servant! The government is on your shoulders and though we do not know the time or hour, one day every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that you are Lord! As we pass through these troubled times of sorrow, disasters, wars and sickness, may we fix our eyes on you and your great commission in the unshakeable hope you have given us. You are the anchor of our soul. By your Spirit reign in us to serve a world in need, in the communities around us and beyond - bringing your light and hope into the darkness.

Thank you for the support and encouragement given and sent to us over the years. Thank you for all the opportunities over the years to share your love and plant seeds ready for you to grow.

We pray for your vision, guidance, and blessing on Jules and the mission of HTC, progress towards refurbishment and its use for the community:-

- Jackie's ministry in Lefkada
- Matthew and Cindy and their worldwide calling and caring, recently in Lesbos
- Pauline, Veta and Anna Maria preparing for World Day of Prayer
- Ministry team and Pastoral teams meeting this month
- Lent time with Jesus, changing us more into his likeness
- Emily and her work with Irise for girls and women in Uganda and UK
- Sabina in Yemen especially through times of cut off internet communication
- The Hellenic Red Cross serving families in need
- The Special Needs High School and Lykeio
- Corfu hospital , and new mental health & addiction centres
- Provision for those whose homes have been damaged and for repair work needed on the island.

And most of all: - Shine Jesus Shine fill this land with The Fathers Glory.

Hallelujah! Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done.

Amen.

RECENT HTC ONLINE PRAYERS



Lord once again we find ourselves being bombarded with huge numbers of people affected by covid, we praise you Lord that although the numbers are high the fatalities are low and we thank you Jesus... but Lord the hospitals are still at risk of being over loaded with people in need of medical intervention and once more others who also have life threatening illness or even those waiting for other treatments are being put to the back of the queue... Lord each new wave of covid brings a new wave of fear, family against family, friend against friend... the world looks like a very broken place... Lord, we need You so much, we lift our eyes to You, we lift our hands to You and we ask for intervention... help us Lord to keep our focus on You and not on the chaos around us... Let our hearts be planted in fertile ground so that the worries of this world don't strangle us and give us Your Holy Spirit so that we can stand firm in our faith and give light and hope to those around us... in Jesus name we ask, Amen

Lord, we thank you for our lives. Sometimes they are better days and sometimes worse but we are still here and we can do a lot to make our lives and the lives of others much better. We pray for all those who are mourning, ill, suffering, lonely, hungry, poor, homeless, refugees, drug addicts, unwanted and depressed. For old people who are confused and weak. For this world to be a kind place. For the virus to finally weaken. For our families and friends. For the church. For being able to meet, hug and make music again. And we ask for forgiveness. There are so many things we have done wrong. Please show us the best way to go. Amen.

FOR THE YEAR AHEAD AS WE EMERGE FROM COVID...

Courage and Wisdom for 2022

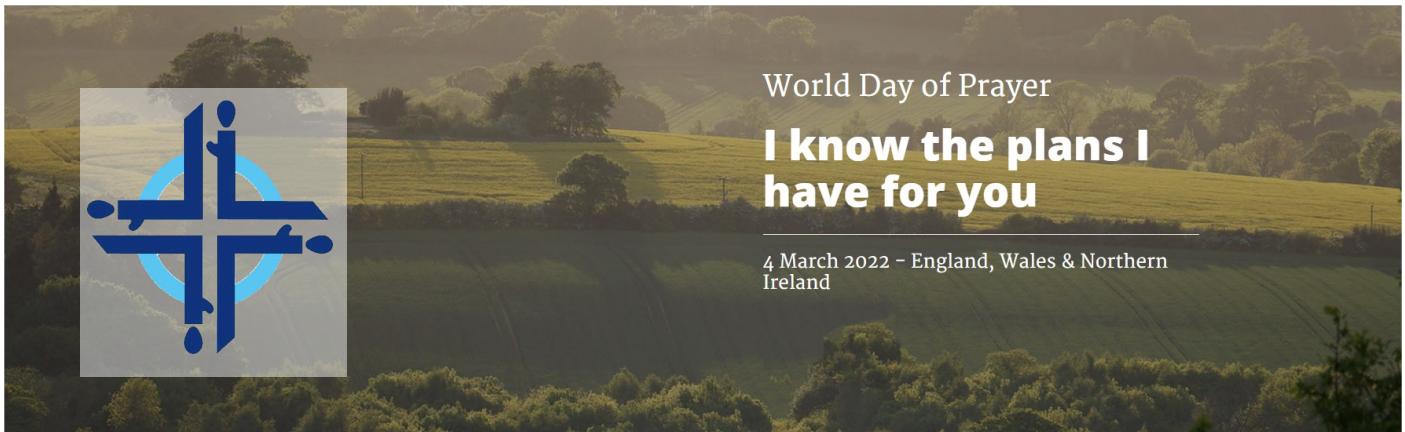
O Lord of all things, great and small, strengthen us with your gentleness so that nothing small or mean can upset us. Lord of all great things, strengthen us with your power so that no disaster can overcome us. Give us courage and wisdom so that nothing can prevent us from doing your will and walking in your ways this year and all our days.

Sharing Worldwide.

Lord our Father, creator of the whole earth; we thank you for the most precious gift of life. Help us to use our lives in loving and serving you and all our neighbours throughout the world. Open our eyes and ears to catch the sounds and sights of people of differing lands and cultures so that we can continue to grow in understanding of their joys, laughter and their problems and their pain.

Inspire us day by day to follow your Son's teaching, telling the Gospel to all we meet with minds and hearts and hands ever glad to share with one another the beauty and bounty of the world. May we do our part to make this year a fairer and kinder world for all, dispelling tensions and conflicts of the previous year.

O Holy Spirit, giver of light and life, impart to us thoughts higher than our own thoughts, and prayers better than our own prayers, and powers beyond our own powers, that we may spend and be spent in the ways of love and goodness, after the perfect image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



World Day of Prayer

I know the plans I have for you

4 March 2022 - England, Wales & Northern Ireland

The World Day of Prayer this year 2022 is special as it has been prepared by the Christian Women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It has been both challenging and rewarding for them to write about these three countries that make up this area: the landscape, people and culture have all shaped their history.

This service will celebrate the diversity and the contributions made by the many groups and individuals who have made their homes here. The Bible text chosen "I know the plans I have for you" from Jeremiah reflects on some of the issues facing these countries today: poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in different situations and encouragement in the help given to each other.

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.

Greek Evangelical Church, Corfu 4th March 7:00pm

The art work represents: -

Freedom: an open door to a pathway across an endless open vista.

Justice: broken chains

God's Peace and Forgiveness: the dove of peace and a peace lily breaking through the pavement.

Over all a rainbow which has come to represent all these things from the story of Noah through to the modern day. From a sign of God's covenant with a man to a symbol of unity between different sections of our modern community.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

CORFU AND LEFKADA 2020/2021

Dear Friends of The Royal British Legion.

I am very pleased to report that the total amount collected for the combined 2020/2021 Poppy Appeal amounted to €2,539.54. This amount included €1,836.75 from Corfu and €702.79 from Lefkada.

Considering the unexpected changes to our lives due to the Covid-19 virus, commencing late December 2019/early 2020, many unavoidable situations happened: many serious medical conditions, loss of family & friends, loss of employment, loss of homes, cancellation of holidays, many financial difficulties etc. Considering all the various traumas the population endured, I am very impressed that so many of you remembered our serving troops with your ongoing generosity and respect, your attendance at Holy Trinity Church, the British Cemetery on Remembrance Sunday for the annual wreath-laying ceremony - a wet and windy day – but, still you came!

This amount is very fitting in honour of our serving troops, both at home and abroad. Those who gave their lives so we could have a future:

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

On behalf of The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, I send each and every one of you, in Corfu and Lefkada, my sincere thanks and appreciation for your kindness and support. This amount, very much appreciated, will be put to the best possible use.

Yours very sincerely
Lucy Steele, M.B.E.
Poppy Appeal Honorary Organiser



LOOKING AHEAD.....

Dear All

In July 2022 (29th), I will be 65. I have decided to take the Church Commissioners pension and make an ‘official’ retirement. By July, I have been ordained for 39 years. However, with Bishop Robert’s approval and the Athens Church Council Agreement, I will continue to be chaplain – with no salary – until the end July of 2023 when I am eligible for my UK state pension also. From August of this year, I will continue to live at Karneadou 6 in Athens for one more year, with the Church Council covering the usual costs of the apartment, and I will work five days per week, not six. I am likely to work in a regular week Wednesday through till Sunday.

During the year of July 2022- July 2023, Lynne and I will be looking for a house in or near to Athens, as we have decided to retire here in Greece. Bishop Robert has renewed my Licence until 2025, so it allows for some flexibility about being (for example) Chairman of the Board of the Anglican Church in Greece for legal and banking purposes until my successor is appointed, in place, and well settled.

From July 2022- July 2023, I will also try to make a visit to all the congregations in Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia. As we are retiring to Greece, I remain available to help out in whatever is needed.

It is perfectly in order to share this information with Church Officers and congregations – and anyway, I will be Chaplain in Athens until the end of July 2023. I have already made this public at St. Paul’s.

Good wishes and blessings for your worship tomorrow.

Fr. Leonard

Fr. Leonard Doolan
29th Jan 2022

Senior Anglican Priest in Athens & Apokrisiarios of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece

Sabina's Kitchen Update

Here are a few snippets of information from the Czech charity which HTC are able to support through Pavla's friendship with Sabina. Also Sabine wrote that they were without internet and any connection for four days as they are being bombed every day, thousands of civilians were killed.

POMŮŽU JAK MŮŽU

What we use your donations for *2021

- 1 Good people contribute money
- 2 Pomůžu jak můžu (PJM) CZ regularly sends the donations to the account of PJM Yemen.
- 3 Sabina collects the money and thanks it to, she takes care of:
 - ...the kitchen and its workers.
She pays the local people who are employed by the organization as a project manager (shapes the budget, communicates with the boarders, registers the boarders, forms reports on running of the organization, deals with the local authorities, prepares documents for the administration,...), a kitchen manager (ensures the purchases of foodstuffs, various materials, water, energy, communicates with providers, controls whether the set rules are followed in the kitchen, prepares records of the daily routine,...), a cook (prepares meals), and an assistant (serves meals, cleans the workplace, helps during purchases).
Thus, we employ four people who are then able to provide for their families!
 - ...the purchases of foodstuffs
She buys all the foodstuffs from the locals, supporting them thanks to your donations as well. What do we buy during a month? 75kg of onion, 375kg of potatoes, 150kg of various vegetables, 375kg of rice, 30L of oil, some spices and salt.
 - ...fees, rent, and energies
She covers other costs connected with the kitchen as the rent, administration fees, water, gas, gasoline, disinfection, detergents etc.

Thanks to your donations, we are able to prepare 166 meals per day. Each day, we can feed 166 mothers and their children, in other words, 30 families, which means 4,980 meals per month. The monthly expenses of our project reach 3.390 €.

The cost of one meal for a person per day is 0,7 €.
Just 0,7 € is able to save a life and give hope.

Footnote: Your donations are not used for any other expenses of Pomůžu jak můžu as the rest is executed by our brilliant volunteers. They devote their leisure time to run the administration, communicate with the authorities and institutions, take care of our website, graphic design, social media and its content, they prepare basic materials for communication and presentation, prepare campaigns, independent supportive projects, manage accountancy, rent the office etc.

www.pomuzujakmuzu.cz

Attempt to start a new project of providing meals for a girl's school

Meanwhile, we started talking about supporting a girl's school in Sanaa in the form of snacks. We are trying to get separate funding for that. Education in Yemen is endangered, especially education for girls. Therefore, motivating them with food to go to school can help at least a small group of people. At this moment, the project is in the process of being approved by a possible supporter. We do not know if it will be successful, but we will keep trying.

Sabina's Kitchen Update



Pavla Smetanová and her auction

Pavla has an amazing personality and her incredible commitment to support her high school friend Sabina is just admirable. She is able to attract many people, even celebrities like Jiří Lábus, Tomáš Šebek and many, many more. Her Facebook community engages about 1,500 people from all over the world and in November they were able to collect incredible 342,240 Czech crowns.

Tremendous Giving... and inflation in Yemen

For the year 2021 we were able to send 1,888,000 Czech crowns into Yemen. This amount is beautiful and, in our eyes, also huge. It allows us to create a reserve for the beginning of next year and, hopefully, also to increase the number of people we can help, for at least a few months. But that is only an estimation because prices keep changing and going up (especially because of the American dollar). For example, before the conflict, electricity in the house for a month cost 5 USD, now it costs 100 USD without hot water, only light and small fridge. One bottle with 24 painkillers went from 2,000 YR to 8,000 YR in only one month. Insulin went from 50,000 YR to 120,000 YR, ink for a printer from 18,000 YR to 50,000 YR.

Donations from Yemeni people in Sanaa

Another wonderful news is that a project financed primarily from the Czech Republic and other countries outside Yemen inspired people in Yemen to donate anything they can. Sometimes it can be money, food, or toys. It happens spontaneously or during holidays such as Ramadan. During this year's Ramadan, we were able to provide 80 additional food packages to people in need, families and single parents with disabled, blind children or children born with congenital defects. Each package contained 10 kilos of flour, 10 kilos of sugar, 10 kilos of rice, and 2 litres of oil, which together make 2,400 kilos of flour, rice, sugar, and 160 litres of oil.



A DIFFICULT JOURNEY

Dear friends at HTC,

It has been over eight years since I was in Corfu and I miss you all.

I moved from Corfu in 2012, first to Saranda where I lived for 5 years while attempting to sell our home in Corfu. Sadly, during that time, Carole and I divorced and I began a time of separation from God. Carole and I are on good terms today, and speak regularly.

In 2018, I met Selin - a Turkish lady - we married and I moved to her home in Istanbul. We had a very happy marriage and I became stepfather to her children Yusuf and Aylin in their early 20's who lived with us. Selin and I loved each other so much that we called each other "my angel". My faith started to grow stronger as we played and sung Christian worship songs in our home.

In April 2021, my whole Turkish family caught Covid Delta and were seriously ill. Selin and I were admitted to emergency intensive care in one of the Istanbul hospitals. Two days after admission, we were both in coma, dying through lack of oxygen, and Selin died.

It has been the saddest year of my life, coping with her death, my own slow recovery from paralysis and inability to breathe, helping Yusuf and Aylin to cope with their Mum's death, and preparing our next steps in life.

At the same time, my Mum (87) and Dad (88) in England needed help in their lives, and in October 2021, I returned to England to live with them and become their carer.

Something happened in the middle of all this to convince me of the frailty of my life, the reality of our souls enduring after death, and my inability to proceed without God in the centre of my life, and Christ as my saviour.

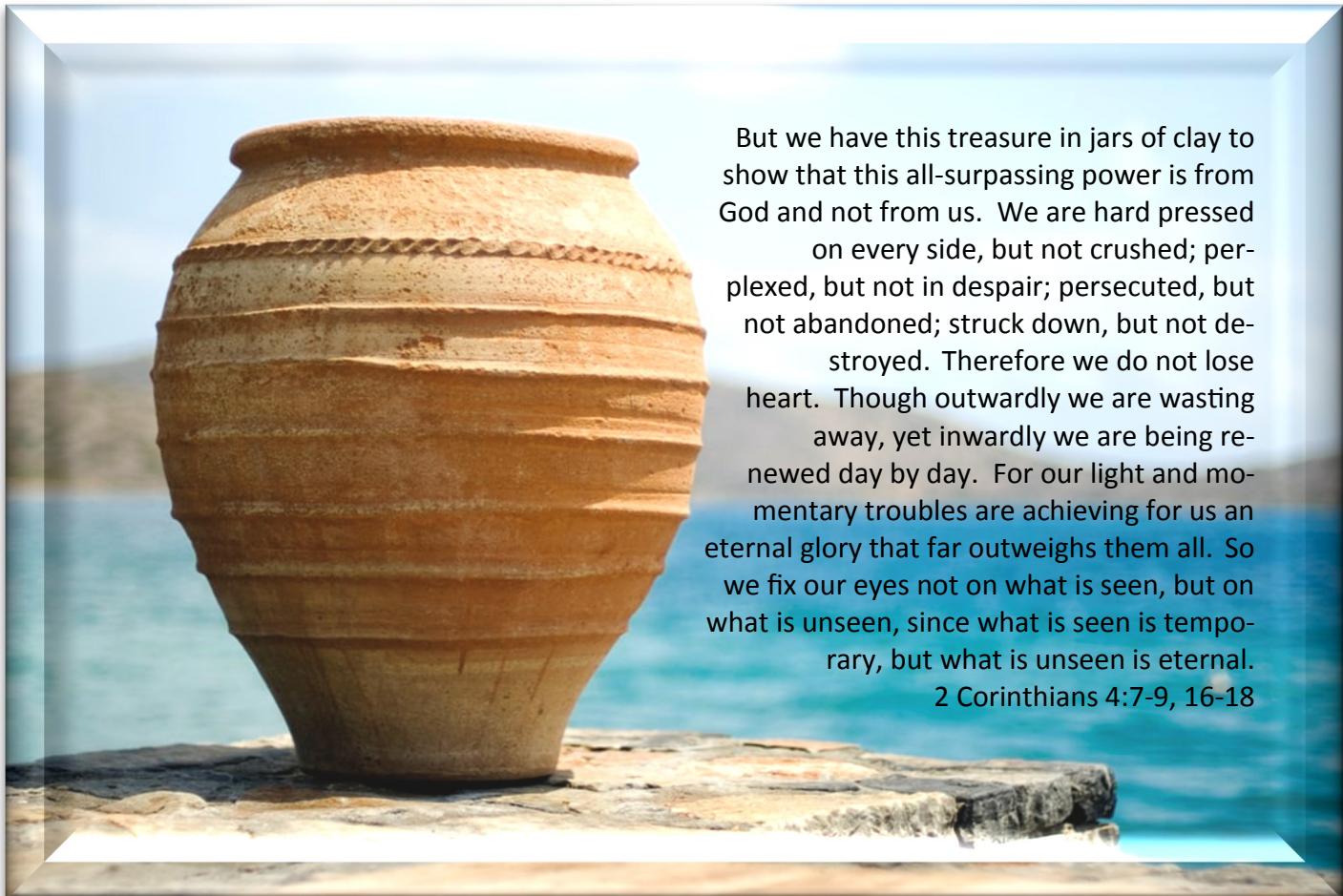
I am once again worshipping in the local church (es) ... a community of five village parishes in Gloucestershire. I also play the church organs occasionally when they are desperate, and I have joined a group of musicians who are learning to sing and accompany contemporary Christian music.

I was so sad to learn of Spiros' death, he was someone I held in very high esteem. I know we will meet again one day.

I am delighted for HTC that Jules is your Vicar ... such a loving and caring man and such a witness and living example of Christ in us.

I hope you are all growing in your walk with God, and I send love and greetings from Gloucester UK.

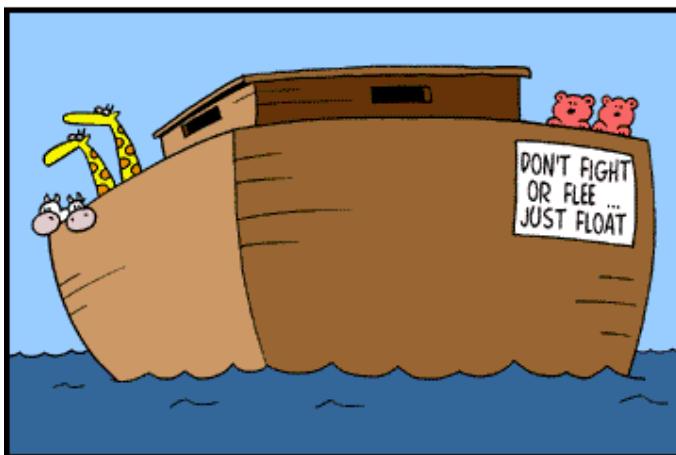
Your brother in Christ. *Rob Sherratt*



But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:7-9, 16-18

Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



Thanks to Lloyd Vandenbrink

02-16-1999



02-24-1999

HMMMM ... YOU'VE BEEN GNASHING YOUR TEETH AGAIN, HAVEN'T 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



Links



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



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

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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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