



## MIXED EMOTIONS

Dear Friends,

Do you ever find yourself having to hold together so many mixed emotions at the same time?

This morning, I woke up and I was looking forward to the day ahead. The sun was shining, the mountains were clear in the distance; I was looking forward to a house blessing later in the day and the first chance to make some live music outside in nearly two and a half years.

Then I read the news. A war had started that same morning.

Saying morning prayer later with the ministers across Greece, it was obviously a theme. Remembering the small Anglican church in Kiev and Thamarai who we have met for years at the Synod meetings of the Eastern churches; remembering how close the church they share is to the main square in the capital. For some reason, because we know someone there, it feels closer. But from here on Corfu, it is no closer than Syria or Israel or Eritrea. Or is it because the forces massed on that border between the Ukraine and Russia have the direct involvement of NATO forces. And that brings it closer to home. Politically, we find ourselves on one side of this conflict by default.

Strange to think that *we are at war*.



Of course, this isn't what I was hoping to write about this month. I was looking forward to Lent and commending the book "Being Disciples" by Rowan Williams (and I still am!). But the question I can't help asking myself is in the shadow of potentially epic and world changing events, why does it matter if we mark Lent at all? Shouldn't we be anxious and nervous and scroll down to the next media item to glean a little more information, or another opinion about what is going on? Surely there's no time for changing those little practices in our lives - being less indulgent, prioritising our prayer and thought life, being a little kinder where we can - who knows where this will end?!

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## GOD KNOWS

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Well the answer is, God knows. And it has always been thus over the centuries. Jesus told us as much. "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." (Matthew 24:6) We know that the early church was forged in the midst of persecutions and the gift of the book of Revelation was to assure and encourage the churches to hold fast when the world was in turmoil around them. It's interesting, in this context, to consider those first few chapters and the letters to the churches. What was Jesus so concerned about to express to them? Discerning the political machinations of the war machines around them? Second guessing their political leaders? No. Jesus is concerned that they keep their love of God and each other alive (Rev 2:4-5); that they remain faithful in the discipleship with their eyes fixed on the crown that awaits (Rev 2:1); that they press forward with living holy lives in contrast to the world around them.

In short, Jesus encouraged His churches to be mindful and compassionate about what was

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going on around them but not to be defined by those events or to lose hope or patience. Rather, to focus on the love and work of the Holy Spirit within them, remain steadfast in the faith and to do the good things that God had prepared for them to do.

And so it is the same for us. Every age has seen the powerful make their power plays at the cost of peace. Every age, the church has prayed for peace, knowing that peace on this side of Heaven, is a fragile and precarious thing; and yet trying to become people of peace, people of the Kingdom where the Prince of Peace reigns.

And we will do that now. We will try to keep a holy lent as the next upheaval challenges us. And we will do that in the small and simple ways that are right before us. We will pray for peace and wisdom for our leaders. We will pray and study the ways of Jesus that we may become the people of peace we need to be for Him. And we will endeavour, through simple acts of abstinence, to remind ourselves that the transient appetites of this world are just that - transient. Leaders come and go; wars come and go (tragically) and yet despite and even through this, the Lord builds His Kingdom and prepares for a peace that will know no end.

So let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and encourage each other in the simple disciplines of prayer, fasting, study and generosity - even more so as the political world lurches towards the next chapter of its history.

With every blessing,

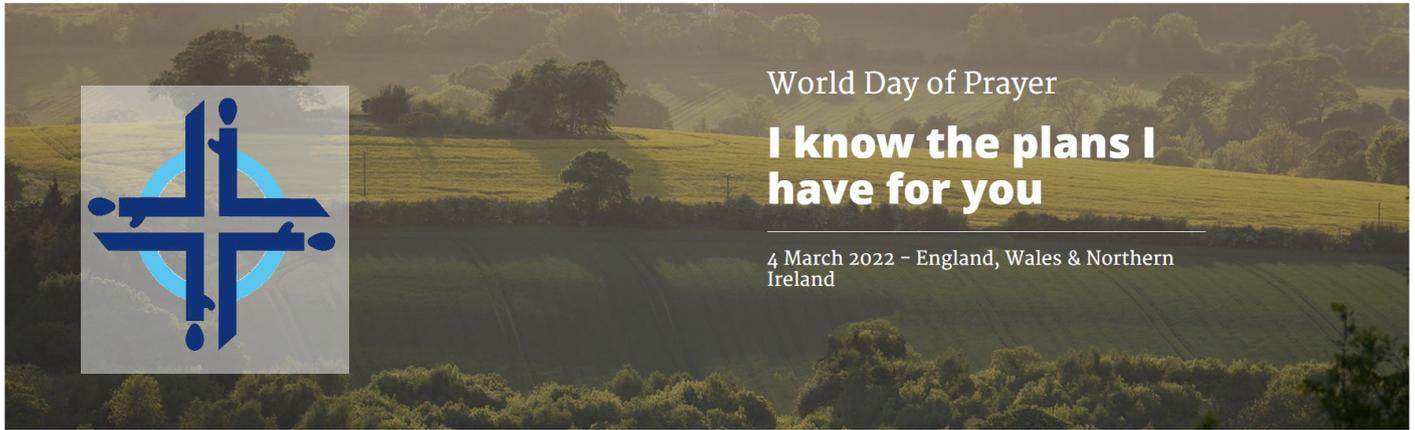
Jules.



## **'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 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 American 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.



# PULSE PRAYERS



## ***Prayer focus.***

Finding a place of peace when the outside world can seem unsettling and threatening.

As we emerge from the pandemic mental health issues in many countries have reached record numbers. Clearly there is much stress, frustration and fear around us.

### ***Heavenly Father,***

Help us to remember the sacrament of the present moment and to be mindful that Your clock keeps perfect time. As we seek your voice in the quiet of this prayer time help us to make every moment of our lives a communion with your divine love. We ask for the grace to live 'one tick at a time' and not to let apprehension about the future or regret from the past flood into the present and make us miserable.

*Amen.*

We pray for the parts of the world where there is unrest and war. Many people at this time are affected by the power play of leaders who refuse to be accountable to You. Have mercy we pray on all who are suffering through the evils of greed and tyranny. Those who are sorrowful and weep and those in exile.

Have pity on the refugee, the persecuted, the homeless and those who have lost hope. We remember those who are in captivity and where their passage of time has a very different meaning to ours. May we never take our freedom for granted and appreciate every moment!

*Amen*

### ***Father God,***

We pray for all those we know who are sick at this time in mind, body or spirit. We ask for Your divine healing on them and for You to work through the skill of medics who collaborate to care for those in hospitals.

May we be a place of peace for those around us who are suffering and a light of hope when situations seem dark and overwhelming.

Keep us all under the shelter of Your holy wings.

*Amen*

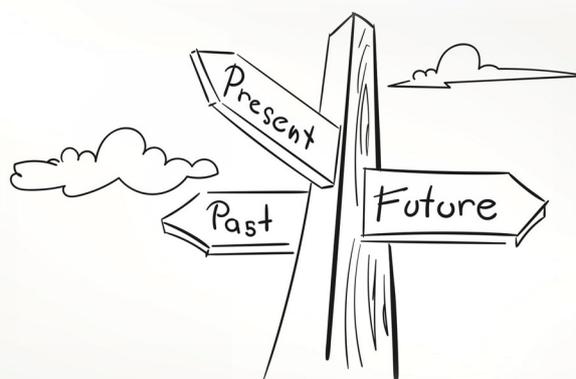
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*I was regretting the past  
And fearing the future  
Suddenly my Lord was speaking;  
'My name is I AM.' He paused.  
I waited. He continued,  
'When you live in the past  
With its mistakes and regrets,  
It is hard. I am not there.  
My name is not I Was.  
When you live in the future,  
With its problems and fears,  
It is hard. I am not there.  
My name is not I Will Be.  
When you live in this moment,  
It is not hard. I am here.  
My name is I AM.'*

*(A prayer by Helen Mallicoat)*



### **Philippians 4:7**

*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

## **Reflection:**

Our world cannot understand true peace—it defies understanding. The world's definition of peace is often shallow and fleeting. But this Bible verse about peace reassures us that the peace of God is deeper and truer than worldly peace. So this lent seek the peace that transcends understanding. When we do that, our hearts and minds will be guarded by the presence of Jesus. All those around us will be amazed at the **unshakable peace** we can bring to the world.

A letter of thanks HTC received from the headmaster of The Special Needs Vocational High School.

To check out some of their activities on their Facebook Page, click the link.



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ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ & ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ  
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ΙΟΝΙΩΝ ΝΗΣΩΝ  
ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ Β/ΘΜΙΑΣ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗΣ ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑΣ  
ΕΝΙΑΙΟ ΕΙΔΙΚΟ ΕΠΑΓΓΕΛΜΑΤΙΚΟ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΟ-ΛΥΚΕΙΟ  
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Κέρκυρα: 13/2/2022

Αρ.Πρ.: Δ.Υ

Προς: Holy Trinity Corfu

We would like to thank you for the donation of **325,00** euro your church made to our school. The headmaster , the teachers of our school and the parents of our students would like to thank you for your initiative to help our school.

Ο Διευθυντής

ΑΜΟΙΡΙΑΔΗΣ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ

# UNSHAKABLE HOPE

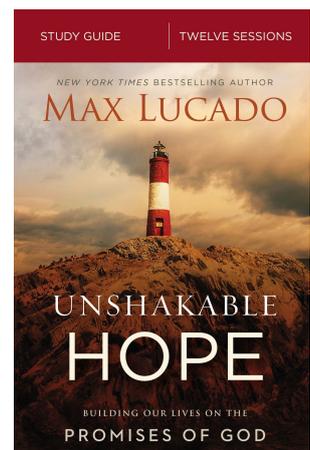
Over the last two years, the world has been in turmoil with COVID, a disease that has been devastating to nations, communities, families and individuals. Lifestyles whatever the “norm” was, has been disrupted. In the autumn a group of us in Corfu and beyond, with the aid of zoom, embarked on a study of the book “Unshakable Hope by Max Lucado. (A well-known author and minister at Oak Hills church in San Antonio).

Over the months, we began to explore in depth key themes and God’s unshakeable promises. There were some key verses that many of us knew well; it was good to revisit them in more depth.

Our journey began exploring God’s great promises in both the Old and New Testament. In 2 Peter 1:4 we were reminded, “God has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature”. According to Max, there are 7,487 promises that God gives us.

As the weeks advanced into a few months, we revisited many well-known promises. We were reminded that :-

- We are shaped in God’s image. - Genesis 1:26
- We are blessed with every spiritual blessing. - Ephesians 1:3
- We are encouraged to put on our spiritual armour. - Ephesians 6
- We are heirs, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. - Romans 8:17
- Prayer is powerful – James 5:16
- God intercedes for us – Romans 8:34
- There is no condemnation for those in Christ – Romans 8:1
- We are promised the power of the Holy Spirit – Acts 1:8



These are some of the promises we debated as a group and explored in depth. We discussed at length the area of justice; there was a lively debate about what is fair and unfair. We were directed to Jeremiah 12:1 “You are always righteous, Lord, when I bring a case before you. Yet I would speak with you about your justice”.

In one session we looked at the different scripture verses that reassure us that Christ is praying for us. We discussed Jesus and the calming of the storm on the Sea of Galilee as told in Matthew 14. As we look around in the world here today, there are many meteorological storms. We also experience our own individual storms in life. Max shares a story about a young boy who due to illness is placed in quarantine in his home. During isolation, the boy teaches himself to play a guitar. Today we sing the songs in church the boy was Chris Tomlin. The interesting parallel here is that during the difficult times of Lockdowns in the last two years many people have composed and written powerful songs in both the church community and elsewhere. It has been a solitary time to stop and reflect on many things. One person in the group said, “We need to ‘Be Still’ and ‘listen’”. That is very apt.

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As a group, we shared in depth many personal challenges and revealed how God's promises are so central to our lives. Amongst the storms of life, we were reminded there is joy! In Psalm 30:5 where we may be weeping through the night, joy comes in the morning.

Hope: is a theme that is aligned with an 'anchor'. This reminds us we are anchored in God to reflect his image. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm, and secure." Hebrews 6:19

Prayer: As one of the group commented, "The power of prayer, it's a healing force, is strengthening and supportive, it's a direct connection to our Lord, our anchor or Rock'.

To conclude here are some key points that someone in the group offered,

The Victory is certain, God has won.

We live in a Kingdom that cannot be shaken.

We are anchored in God to reflect the image of God.

God will grant you a harvest of Hope through his unbreakable Promises.

As the weeks progressed as one person said, "Sharing the book together gave it greater depth and drew us closer together with all that we shared".

So where can we all go from here?

May we encourage you to read the book! It is an easy read, thought provoking and there is a study guide at the end. Come and join in the next study group. This is for Lent, where we will be studying "Being Disciples" by Rowan Williams. This will take place over six weeks leading up to Easter.

*From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea*

*Creations revealing Your majesty*

*From the colours of fall to the fragrance of spring*

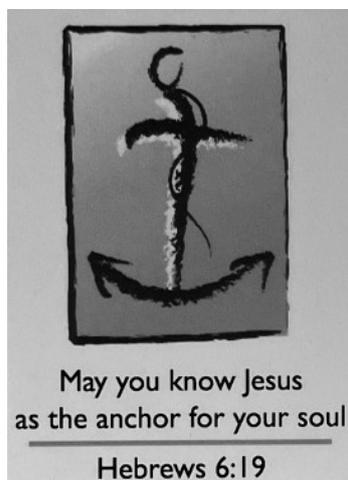
*Every creature unique in the song that it sings*

*All exclaiming*

*Indescribable, uncontainable*

Words from the song, 'Indescribable' by Chris Tomlin

*Jan Billington.*



# 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

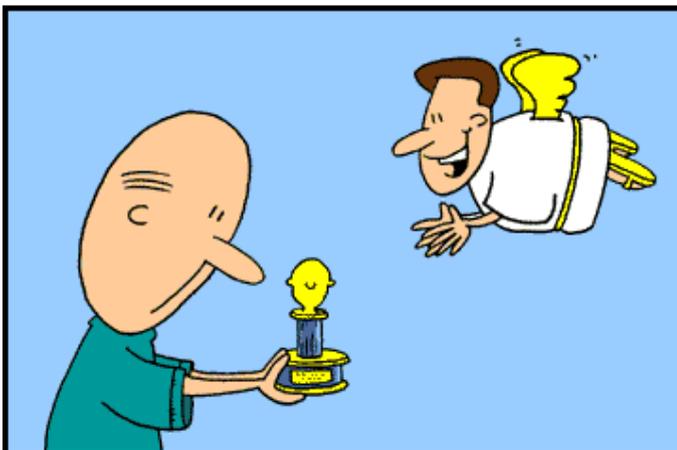


To book an appointment:

email Trish: [trishmariawilson@gmail.com](mailto:trishmariawilson@gmail.com) or phone: 0030 6986644271

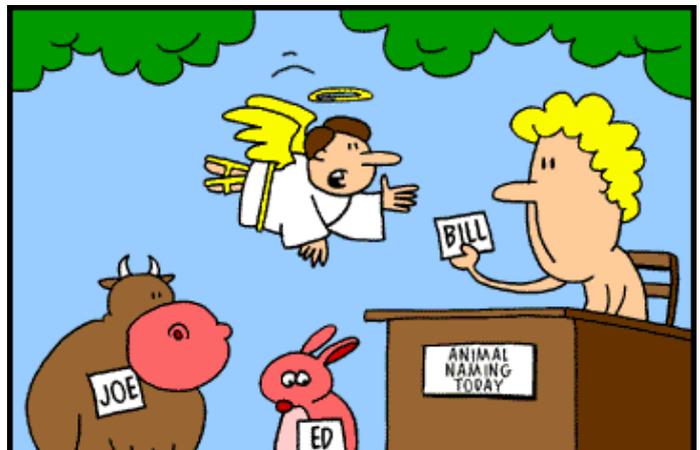
<https://sites.google.com/view/trish-wilson-christian-counsel/home>

# Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



Thanks to Benoit Paquette 03-25-1999

AS HEAD ANGEL IN CHARGE OF COUNTING THE HAIRS OF HEADS I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS AWARD FOR MAKING MY JOB SO EASY



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Genesis 2:19) 03-17-1999

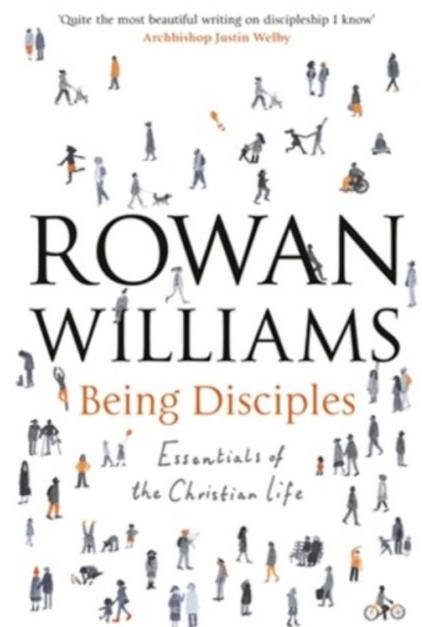
WE SORTA HAD SOMETHING DIFFERENT IN MIND

# A n opportunity to pray, read and share together during Lent

On Thursday evenings during Lent, we are going to be getting together to read a chapter of Rowan Williams' book "Being Disciples". The book gives us six chapters, each on a theme of discipleship and, as he always does, Rowan Williams encourages to go deeper in our understanding of what it means to be a disciple and how we can better reflect Jesus in our daily lives.

The book is available in paperback and digitally,

If you are having trouble accessing a copy, there is a plan B! Each chapter of the book is based on one of Rowan's talks and they are available to download from his website. The links to these talks, along with the dates and themes, are listed below. I will also send out a link every Saturday for the week ahead as a reminder. It's not as good as the book, but a pretty close second.



I hope to see you online on Thursday evenings at 7 pm Greek time!

Thursday date	Topic	Link to talk online
3rd March	Chapter 1 - Being Disciples	Click <a href="#">here</a>
10th March	Chapter 2 - Faith, hope and	Click <a href="#">here</a>
17th March	Chapter 3 - Forgiveness	Click <a href="#">here</a>
24th March	Chapter 4 - Holiness	Click <a href="#">here</a>
31st March	Chapter 5 - Faith in Society	Click <a href="#">here</a>
7th April	Chapter 6 - Life in the Spirit	Click <a href="#">here</a>



**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**

 <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](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:** htccorfu@pulse@gmail.com



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