

IT'S HOT

Dear Friends,

It has been quite a busy few weeks here at HTC! Many encouraging and inspiring signs of Jesus' Kingdom among us; the fellowship of new and old friends visiting the islands on holiday or summer mission and the joy in worship that being together releases; many acts of kindness in times of need in the hot and sticky weather; trying a few new and old things to get ourselves "back out there(!)" and to draw people together. As I say, all very encouraging - so a big thank you from all of us to all of us.

As I am writing this at home, without air-conditioning, there is one overwhelming thought... it's hot! But then it's supposed to be - this is Greece in July after all. But what about the exceptional heat experienced in other places? Those exceptional high temperatures in the UK? The Met office says this, "A new record daily maximum temperature was provisionally reached on 19 July, with 40.3°C recorded at Coningsby, Lincolnshire, exceeding the previous record by 1.6°C. A total of 46 stations across the UK exceeded the previous UK record of 38.7°C. Many long-running stations with 100+ year records recorded their highest ever temperature, some by extraordinary margins of 3 to 4°C. " They also said this, "In a climate unaffected by human influence, climate modelling shows that it is virtually impossible for temperatures in the UK to reach 40°C."



Just one small example among the many serious climatic events our world is experiencing. How do we think about these times and issues as followers of Jesus? What is the Spirit saying to the churches in the face of increasing ecological and climatic issues? How do we respond?

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

A clear and straightforward biblical perspective has been produced to help us with this (you can read the document [here](#)). The principles are very straightforward but like anything else when we try to align our own will with God's will (rather than justifying the other way round) it presents us with a shift in our perspectives and priorities which is not usually as straightforward - because it is going to be a challenge to us. It's we who are going to need to repent, to turn to His ways and to remember again our place in His Creation.

One of the most profound statements in this document is this, referencing Psalm 104 and its roots in Genesis 1, "The psalm indicates that the ecological crisis we are confronting is... a spiritual crisis where humans have forgotten their origin in, and dependency on God, the giver and sustainer of life. A spiritual crisis calls for a conversion, a new thinking, and a new search for a lifestyle in accordance with God's will."

As I said, not so straightforward. What exactly is this "lifestyle in accordance with God's will"? What conversion is necessary?

It is probably no surprise that the patron saint of animals and ecology is St. Francis. (But it might be surprising to know he is also the patron saint of merchants!) It's hard to overstate the influence and impact that St Francis' complete focus on following Jesus had and has. He became a profound source of renewal for the church in his age as through his prayers and actions he brought the heart of Jesus' compassion and challenge to those around him. So what did he do that was so impactful? What campaigns did he run, what arguments did he use? Well... none really. He lived a changed life.

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He was born wealthy in a permissive age (ring any bells?) and he enjoyed the good life he was born into to the full. He longed for glory and fame. But when God called him to “rebuild his church” he responded. Very practically at first, literally rebuilding a church. But he came to understand that this was a spiritual call. Not to be distracted by wealth or prestige or status. But simply to serve and love - and not just people, but God’s creation. His conversion, his “new thinking” showed to him the love God has for His whole creation and he came to understand and express his own love for that which God loved... without distraction or greed. As you can imagine, the impact for some was inspirational and reformatory; the impact for others was that he had simply gone too far. But his impact on rebuilding God’s church spiritually was undeniable. Are there any clues here for us as we think how we

ANY CLUES HERE?

can follow Jesus and become an influence for renewal in our church and world - a source of God-centred attitudes that honour Him and all that He has brought into being?

Today the Franciscan order has a guide to living which aims to help us live with greater focus on our Lord and in greater harmony with His world. Maybe we could start there in our search to live better in the light of what we now know. Here are some of their principles rooted in divine wisdom...

- Penitence - Regular examination of our obedience to Christ... to be reconcilers we must first be deeply reconciled to God.
- Personal Prayer - ...set aside a definite time for prayer each day to spend time with God, to pray for others, to meditate and to express our thankfulness. Prayer is the root from which our lives and ministries grow and are nourished.
- Self-Denial - This is the discipline of saying “No” to oneself by putting God first. We are often aware of the places in our lives where additional self-discipline is needed... We also focus on eliminating the ways we may manipulate others to our own ends.
- Simplicity of Living - Simplicity calls us to examine our giving of self as well as the material things over which we have control. Our cluttered lives, our preoccupations with “belonging(s)”, can interfere in our relationships with God and our brothers and sisters. We are called to a life of simplicity, eliminat-

ing those aspects of ourselves and our lives which prevent our full expression of God’s love.

- Work - Service has always been an important part of the Franciscan vocation; we are often also called to serve God and our brothers and sisters in individual ministries, ranging from prayer to social activism.

In short, taking ourselves seriously before our Lord and seeking His change in us; being prepared to go without and not seeing our lives as a competition with others; living simply to enable a clearer focus on His will for us and seeing our lives become vehicles for His service.

It’s quite a contrast to contemporarily busy living. From the outside looking in it may seem like a failure to achieve and succeed by our Western world’s measures. Some things don’t change - that’s what the people who mocked St Francis thought too.

But there is little doubt that although some of his peers thought he had nothing... in fact he had found everything.

So here’s praying that we are able to rise to the climate challenge of our time personally and as a church - by being prepared to change when He calls us to.

With every blessing,

Jules.

For a series of webinars on exploring the theology around this, click [here](#).

For more on the life of St Francis, click [here](#).



PULSE PRAYERS



Lord we come in adoration, how majestic is your name in all the earth, we give you thanks because of your righteousness, we will sing praises of your name, our Lord Most High. Your everlasting arms are beneath us and in a troubled and broken world we will not fear bad news as our hearts are steadfast and trusting in you. As we weep for all that is going on may your Holy Spirit fill us with the light and love of Jesus and make us bold as your witnesses in our communities. May your glory fill the earth, your Kingdom come Amen!

We pray Lord for changed hearts in greedy and power seeking leaders, that your Spirit will touch them to seek your just and discerning ways for the benefit of those they serve.

Thank you for those serving in aid and bless them with protection and provision as they seek to feed, shelter and minister healing to all who have suffered separation, displacement, bereavement and trauma. We especially pray for Matt and Cindy, Sabina in Yemen and the Red Cross.

Thank you for our own families and friends, and bless them all with your presence and guidance, and bring healing through forgiveness to any broken relationships. Heavenly Father thank you for being part of your universal, mind blowing family and please draw especially near to our persecuted brothers and sisters

We lift to you those who are sick and going through cancer treatments .Thank you for the doctors and researchers and guide them with your healing hands. Sustain and comfort them and those caring for them. Bring to those terminally ill the ultimate healing of knowing you and joy in knowing a future with no tears, death, mourning, crying or pain.

Jesus as you said suffer the little children to come unto you, we pray that you will wrap Piper and Gracie in your arms and bring your healing touch and presence .We pray that you will continue to bless and strengthen Ben.

For all who have lost loved ones (adults & children) through unnecessary conflict, fires, disasters, accidents and sickness. We pray you will come alongside to comfort them bring along help and turn their mourning into dancing again. Amongst our own church family we lift Jackie Vallance and family on the loss of Brian.

We thank you for the privilege of living on this beautiful island, and pray you will give strength to all those working in the heat. Please protect those working to put out the fires in Greece and other places in the world. Lord have mercy and please send rains on fires and places of drought.

We thank you Lord for HTC and all leaders and those who serve you faithfully. We pray especially for Jules now, and wedding blessings coming up, please continue to anoint, strengthen and inspire him Bless and protect Trish and all the family. We pray for times of rest and refreshing for Jules, Jackie in Lefkada, church wardens, council and all the unseen servants. Thank you for our worship team who lead us into your presence. Anoint them Lord. How lovely recently to have families with us and young musicians to

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play in our worship time. Thank you for our wonderful visitors joining us as we have come back together and had a wonderful taste of heaven. We give thanks for the fellowship, help pastorally, encouragement and challenge from Adrian and Andrew of the ICS Summer mission. Lord Bless them.

Lord as we thank you that we can soon start refurbishment, we ask you to prepare a new generation for your glory through the Café Logos. Thank you for the generosity shown so far. Lord of The Harvest please bring in labourers and equip us in every way for the extension of your Kingdom. Luke 10.2

Bless your Holy Name and thank you for answered prayers. Thank you Jesus. Your Kingdom Come.

Be strong.

Lord our God, we thank you for the help you have given us so that we can **stand** before you, rejoicing in the **certainty** of faith.

We thank you for **guiding** and **leading** our lives and for letting us see a goal ahead. Be with us in times of silence when we seem to be alone.

Keep us **strong** and **steadfast** through all the turmoil of life. Help us to remain **unshaken**, for you walk with us **holding** us by the hand.

Amen.

FRIENDLY FOCUS



This is the third in our series of 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 **Cosmas**



Hi Cosmas, first I would like to say thank you for agreeing to talk to me for Pulse. Could I start by asking you to explain how you first came to worship at HTC?

I had been living here for quite a long time and during that time I had a little time with another church in the town and I was looking for somewhere to not only worship but to worship and belong to a family. No one told me about HTC, I was just walking by and I saw the church and thought I would give it a try, hoping that it might be what I was looking for. My first day of worshipping at HTC gave me the hope that this is what I was looking for.

Could you tell us a little about what life is like back home for you and, of course, where exactly home is?

Ok. Home is Biafra in the SE part of Nigeria. The section of the country that has fought a civil war with the government and tried to succeed and that wasn't easy because everything about life and how you struggle depends on you and is about you. The government doesn't care if you live or not, so you must work on yourself in order to succeed. It's not been easy.

What is the name of the tribe you belong to?

Thank you for the question. I belong to the Igbo tribe. You know, according to history it is the tribe of God. So I belong to the Igbo.

What does it mean to be part of a tribe?

It means a lot to me. It means a lot because whatever you are doing in life, if you can't find your roots, if you don't think you have achieved anything, the tribe is there. It started many years ago when the tribe was looking for freedom and where they came from and making enquiries. We discovered that we are

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from the seventh son of Jacob. The Igbo tribe is from the seventh son of Jacob... from God. And since then there are some people from Israel who came for verifications. They tried our culture, they tried our beliefs and they discovered that this is the same thing that we are saying. They came and did a DNA test. They collected some samples from prominent Biafrans from the Igbo and they went back and did their tests and they confirmed it. *(Trish: that's really amazing!)*

What is a typical day like for you when you are at home?

A typical day is just normal - everything is normal there. Just stay with friends and family, chat and centred around the home.



During the worst time of the pandemic, how was your daily life in Nigeria affected?

Thanks, that's a good question. The pandemic shattered everything in Nigeria; it was worse in Nigeria than it was here. Although not the sickness, nobody noticed the sickness. When the government only cared for money and themselves because nobody will even tell you that they got infected. Two prominent men - came out openly that they were admitted in the hospital and told they had covid. But when the result came out, the treatment they had was for Malaria. Yet everything was locked down and we couldn't do anything. We couldn't go to the market, we couldn't go to the shops, we couldn't do anything. The government just didn't care. If you survive you survived if you couldn't you were just left on your own. No I don't have land to grow food. The little money I got - I kept calling friends - a friend of mine in Spain gave me some money to feed the family and I pay him back when it's cleared. So friends and family, that's how we survived.

Did anyone in your tribe or anyone you know catch Covid?

No! Nobody caught Covid. There was even a friend of mine who told me that a friend of his was caught and taken to a hospital and released after five days and was paid to say he had had covid. If there had really been Covid in Nigeria then 70% or 80% would have it because the market is jam packed, the buses are jam packed and the streets are jam packed!

Is it right that you are currently working three jobs?

Laughs. Well, yes. I really am. Necessity calls because you know because my wife is jobless at the moment. I have got to do something for that. I'm really doing 3 jobs.

Tell us about Precious and the children?

That's a good story. My wife and the kids they're okay, they are okay, they are fine. One good thing with the family is the constant communication. Good communication. They are okay . But they are not okay in the sense that I am not there with them. And the same for me. The kids feel the absence of their father and I feel the absence of my wife and the kids too. So... but God has been faithful to us. Perfectly faithful in everything. He takes care of the family.

(Trish: and how old are the children and their names?)

OK. My daughter is Weena and she will be 6 in September. My son is Victor. He will be 3 in September. I will be glad to expand the family a little bit with one more. But I just give a little time so that my son and my daughter will grow up a bit so it won't be too difficult for me to handle them. Hopefully, my wife will be do-

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ing something. We are working on establishing a shop; we are working on that at the moment for her. If she could be able to have something that will take care of some of her needs that is what we are looking for. It is a fabric shop so we have got the premises and we are fixing it. It takes money. Everything is on me so that's why I do three jobs. So I can meet all the financial demands.

What do you value most in the world?

What I value most in the world... I value God first. Secondly, my family. God first in everything.

Were you brought up as a Christian?

Well, what can I say... when we are growing up my Father was not a Christian; my mother was not a Christian; they did not go to church. My grandmother was a Christian. Then all my brothers and sisters were all baptised. When it was time for church they would send us but they never went. They believed in the tradition. From my grandmother... all the kids are Christians but not my mum. So we talk to my mother, we talk to my mother then eventually she comes to church and is baptised. But still my father was not a Christian. So we talk to him and we keep on talking to him and eventually he made up his mind and he came to church and was baptised. The children converted the parents - we converted them! I was Catholic then and later I got converted to a Pentecostal church - my brothers and my sisters (there are eight of us, 3 brothers and 5 sisters) - some are Catholic some are Pentecostal - we have no problems with that.

To finish I was going to ask you to explain what part your faith plays in your life but I think you have already answered that question. So do you have a native language that you could say something in? It would be very interesting to hear how it sounds.

Our language is Igbo, yes, it is from the Igbo tribe. So I will say God bless you. Chukwu gozie gi. Chukwu is God.

(Trish:It sounds so nice).

Cosmas, thank you for taking the time to answer these questions for our magazine. It has been a real privilege to find out a little bit more about you.



Our continuing vigil for peace in Ukraine and Russia.

We were all shocked when President Putin ordered his attack on the Ukraine. Media coverage had it all delivered right into our living rooms daily through the news programs. We could not escape it, nor deny the horror of it and yet many of us felt helpless in our ability to do anything about it.



vice took a lot of living up to. Wonderfully put together and thoughtfully delivered.

It was suggested by our Chaplain that we might take material from evening prayer as a base and write around that. I had recently acquired an old book of prayers (*A Chain of prayer across the ages*. S.F.Fox), from my dad and found this to be a great resource as it was published in 1913, and I assume was later a great resource for soldiers going off to war.



When Bishop Robert led the Diocese in a prayer vigil through Lent it enabled us all to come together to pray for this awful situation, to allow us to contribute in the best way we could, that is in prayer.

When the vigils ended it laid heavily on my heart that we should in some way continue. After all, the war hadn't ended and the people of both nations were suffering.

A dear friend had given me a beautiful sunflower candle which I decided would be perfect to light at each and every meeting. We kept to the same day and time and put together a collection of prayers, videos and information on what was happening so that we might pray on it. The first meeting was more or less attended by the same members of our congregation that had been following the diocese vigils. What a privilege to be able to come together every Wednesday at 7, however, the Diocese ser-

Here is one of the first prayers we used; O Lord God Almighty, Who from Thy throne dost behold all the dwellers upon earth, look down with pity upon those on whom have fallen the miseries of war. Have compassion on the wounded and dying; comfort the broken hearted; assuage the madness of the nations; make war to cease; give peace in our time through Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Recently whilst preparing for the vigil I couldn't shake the idea of 'empty spaces' from my mind. I made that the theme of the vigil that week and what followed was a very powerful and moving gathering which left me quite moved.

I also, in the spirit of loving our enemies, included the following prayer for President Putin.

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Lord, we know you have a heart to forgive those who come in repentance before you, therefore we pray for the heart of President Putin, that it may be softened and re-directed. That ego and vanity, sins that insist on finding ways to enhance his power and dignity in the eyes of his people, are banished from his soul. Be a revelation to him, that he might see the error of his ways, and offer him a vision of a plan in which You can guide him away from continuing this evil war. Help him lead his people to a place of moral victory which no fighting can defeat.



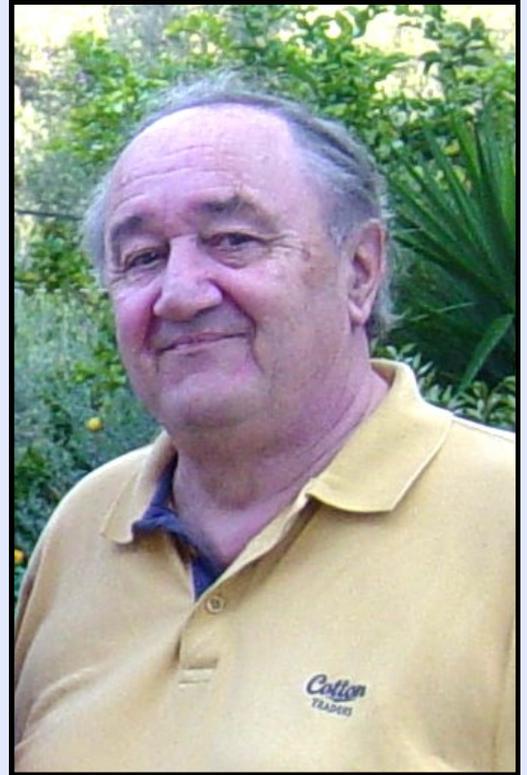
Brian Vallance

HTC would like to extend sincere condolences to Jackie and her family on the passing away of Brian on 11th July. He died in hospital and with Jackie by his side.

Brian & Jackie were married for almost 52 years and have a son Philip, a daughter Rachel and two grandchildren; Jessica and Oliver. He will be sorely missed by family and friends.

May The Lord Jesus enfold Jackie, Philip, Rachael and family and comfort them as they pass through this difficult time.

*"Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted."
Matthew 5:4*



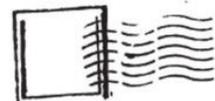
Recent love and greetings to all at HTC have come from Margaret and Ron, Stuart and Kathryn, and the Minshulls.

Holy Trinity was the high point of our lives when we lived in Corfu more than 20 years ago, so it was wonderful to recognise familiar welcoming faces as we walked in the door.

Praise God. It is just as if we had never left. Your fellowship and prayers have been a real spiritual boost for us during our visit, and we feel truly blessed. It is only a pity we could not have stayed longer.

Bless you, and thank you all. You are ever in our prayers.

John and Sue Minshull.



TO:

Holy Trinity Church

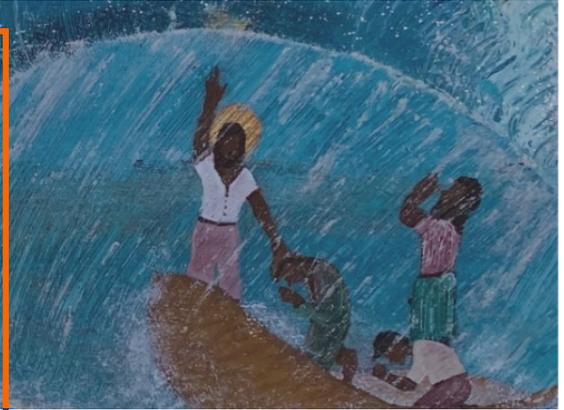
CORFU

Greece

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 counseling setting where you can receive one-to-one confidential on-line space to explore your feelings

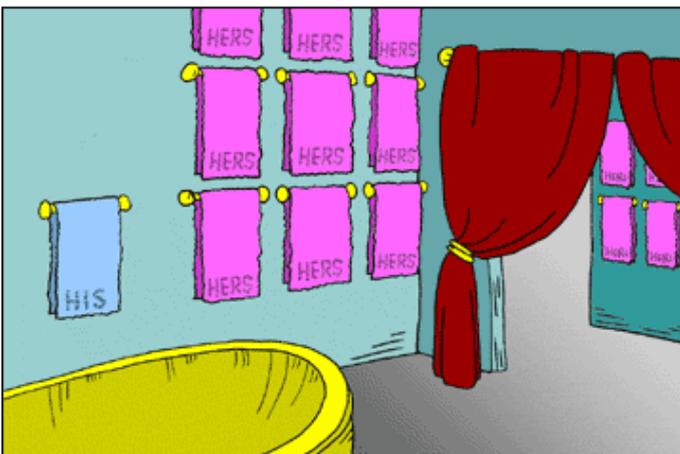


To book an appointment:

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

Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



Thanks to Chris Sumner (See 1Kings 11:1-9)

08-22-2001

SOLOMON'S BATHROOM



Thanks to Marge Burton

08-03-2001

THIS CHURCH SEATING GUIDE WILL GIVE YOU A GOOD IDEA OF WHICH SEATS ARE MEMBER'S FAVORITES ... IT'S JUST EASIEST TO AVOID THOSE SPOTS

Links



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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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