



# THY KINGDOM COME

Dear Friends,

If you were in church or on zoom last Sunday, you will have been reminded that these 11 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost have been marked as a special time to pray for those we know who do not yet enjoy the grace and love of God consciously in their lives; Thy Kingdom come. So I thought it might be interesting to think about how we share our faith with others in a way that is comfortable for everyone involved. If I had this cracked, I would have already written many books about it(!) but there are one or two fairly straightforward pointers that might be helpful when we find ourselves being prompted to share something.

## WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

The first and most obvious thing is never to feel embarrassed or self-conscious about our faith and the difference it makes to us. Our Lord is simply part of who we are. Like we get excited about a great book or a new series or a trip we've been on, so we are enthused and given joy by the presence of God in our lives. Of course, our relationship is far more personal and important than the other examples, but it is the truth we know that sets us free and we are free to share because it is part of us. People love to hear each other's stories and telling of our own experiences is a completely legitimate thing to do. So maybe it's worth taking a few minutes to think about what your faith has



meant to you over the years and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in being able to share that in an engaging way should the opportunity arise.

## LISTEN

The second and also fairly obvious starting point is listening carefully to people when they are talking with us and if there is something concerning them or worrying them... offering to pray for the situation. If it feels appropriate there and then, just pray, there and then. A short prayer bringing the situation before our Lord and asking for His presence and peace or healing brings our Lord into the conversation.



After all, the best we can hope to do is to make an introduction!! Each of God's children will have their own relationship and experience and we are merely the ones encouraging the connection. Having His peace and presence there in the conversation maybe just the experience the other needs... not to forget that He answers us in the most surprising ways. There is nothing like answered prayer to encourage interest!

## DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

I think the third and final point is that it's difficult to argue someone into a relationship with their Lord!! Of course, many of us may enjoy a good debate and part of our Christian discipleship is engaging with difficult questions together but it is so easy for such debates to become competitive and

*(Continued on page 2)*

the whole idea that someone wins and loses when it comes to conversations filled with grace is a bit of a contradiction in terms! The picture of Jesus, the light of the world, comes to mind... where Jesus waits outside the door but the handle is on the other side. People have to open the door for themselves. So, attempting the battering ram approach is likely just to leave everyone a little bruised!!

In all of these things, we can always bring to mind the gracious truth that Jesus leaves us with: that we are not on our own as we “share our Easter

faith”. Jesus is with us; the Holy Spirit will guide us and give us the insights and the words we need to say; just the right thing at just the right time.

So be encouraged. We really do have a lot to share. And when the time feels right, do so with the peace and joy that the Holy Spirit gives.

With every blessing,

Jules



Thank you, Sovereign Lord, for our Queen's commitment to loyal service and godly living that has inspired us through her long reign.

Bless and keep her in this, her Platinum Jubilee year, with your steadfast and unfailing love, to the end of her days.

For your glory and the growth of your kingdom on earth.

*Amen*

# PULSE PRAYERS



Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3.20-21

We cry out for the people of Ukraine and Russia and all those countries in conflict, war and terror. Prince of Peace, by the power of your Holy Spirit please instil in the hearts of those who wage war the need to stop and peace to be had. Encourage the hearts of your suffering children with your presence, comfort and strength. "Do something Lord for the sake of your name." Jeremiah 14.7

*Thy Kingdom Come*

Father God we thank you for the wonderful time of fellowship at the AGM .We pray for our steadfast church wardens, Pauline and Anne, faithful council and new members. We pray for them to be continually blessed, and open to the Holy Spirit's wisdom, guidance and inspiration. We thank you for Jules our Chaplain and Pastor, with Trish at his side, and pray you will continue to bless, guide and inspire him with your Holy Spirit. Protect and strengthen him and Trish and keep them and their children in good health.

*Thy Kingdom Come*

It's so good to be able to fill the church and 'move' again, have coffee and chats after the service. We thank you for the encouragement of our visitors and passers-by hearing the singing and coming in out of curiosity, Lord bless them.

*Thy Kingdom Come*

This month is exciting for us so we pray for it to be a fruitful time. We thank you for Queen Elizabeth and her example of continued steadfast faith in you. Lord bless her.

We give thanks for all those working hard on the preparations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and pray for a really happy time together with opportunities to show Jesus. May many be drawn back to come and see.

*Thy Kingdom Come*

We look forward to Adrian Whitehall and Ruth returning for Summer mission and pray the Holy Spirit to guide them to opportunities. For Nigel, Anne and Ken visiting us and we pray for their refreshing during their time and ministry to us.

*Thy Kingdom come*

As Jackie renews her Readers license we pray for grace, strength and joy with much blessing and fruit as she serves in Lefkada and us.

May your Holy Spirit pour down the healing presence of Jesus at the Service of Healing. Now that we can meet together again we thank you for home groups being able to get together again and new people joining. Lord bless them and guide the groups.

*Thy Kingdom Come*

*(Continued on page 4)*



*(Continued from page 3)*

Thank you for our families and friends, the young and the old. Please bless and protect them and keep in your peace those separated by distance. May they all come to know you Jesus as loving Saviour and Lord.

We pray for those who have lost loved ones recently, for family and friends of Glenn, Tony and baby Emelia. Lord Jesus enfold them and provide for them. We pray for young people facing exams, searching for, and, starting new jobs. Keep them in your peace and wisdom and let them know your presence and guidance.

Young children to have opportunity to hear about you. For the elderly isolated and housebound, for care and help to be found where needed, and use us as your hands and feet. For those sick in body, mind and spirit, those undergoing cancer therapy and those nearing the end of life. Lord make your healing presence and hope known to them. Give strength to them and all who care for them.

*Thy Kingdom Come*

Lord, there are so many reasons for anxiety in today's world we live in. Fear, pain and loss, please bring your calming, loving peace and healing balm to troubled hearts. Thank you for the privilege of living on this beautiful island and the tourists coming. May this help bring provision for the islanders and refreshing for those on holiday. Give strength to those working in the heat. And of course the commencement of the work of refurbishing and Logos Cafe to the glory of Jesus.

*Thy Kingdom Come*

We pray that you will protect, provide and stay close to those working to aid others. Matt and Cindy in Romania; Sabina in Yemen; Emily and her work with Irise in Uganda and UK; The Hellenic Red Cross. We praise you Lord and thank you that you have not left us alone as orphans but sent your Holy Spirit, the comforter and helper, giver of life, your love, compassion, joy, power, boldness and precious gifts to serve and increase your Kingdom.

*Thy Kingdom Come*

Come Holy Spirit. Ignite us, set our hearts on fire Holy Spirit and work through us to call others to open hearts, that you will make your home in them.

*Thy Kingdom Come; Amen*





# WORLD RED CROSS DAY

The Corfu Branch of the Hellenic Red Cross held an Event at the Corfu Palace hotel to celebrate the World Red Cross Day on 7th May.

Jules our chaplain was presented with an award for the support and help given from HTC.



We give thanks for the life of **Tony Dunford** who passed away to be with the Lord at the age of 83.

Tony came to live in Corfu shortly after his wife died. He soon became part of the HTC family for several years before returning to the UK .We have fond memories of his jolly enthusiasm, friendship, fellowship and plane spotting!

May he rest in Peace and rise in Glory, and those who mourn be comforted in the love and hope of our risen Saviour. Amen

# FRIENDLY FOCUS



I thought that it would be nice as we come out of this time of physical separation to remind ourselves what an incredibly marvellous and diverse group of people make up our church of Holy Trinity Corfu. Some of us have been away from church for nearly two and a half years and it feels like the right time to reacquaint ourselves with each other. - **Trish Wilson**

My first interview is with **Elaine Coutts** who is a very long standing friend of many members of the church. I met her for the first time this January when she arrived from Canada to stay in the retreat flat. Here is a summary of our interview.



**First of all I would like to say thank you for putting aside the time for me to interview you for the Pulse. For those people who don't know you, please could you briefly explain your connection to HTC?**

*Many of you have known me for years, but for those who do not, I was resident on the island from 1985 to 2006. I was married to a Corfiot and have two grown children. During much of that time, Holy Trinity was my spiritual home, where I was born again in Christ and found many lovely people who were to become treasured friends.*

**We had the pleasure of you staying in the HTC retreat flat between January and April this year. What prompted your long visit to Corfu?**

*It was a joy to reconnect with my church family at Holy Trinity, Corfu earlier this year. It has long been a hope of mine to be able to escape the long, cold Canadian winters by having a break in Corfu. This year was a trial run and I couldn't be happier with how well it turned out, thanks to the goodness of the Lord.*

*In 2006 I returned to my home in Canada for economic reasons, but Corfu has always held a place in my heart. With both children now launched into life, I have the opportunity to make some of my own dreams a reality, and since one of my children now lives in Corfu, it was the perfect time to re-visit my favourite island.*

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*And how grateful I was to be able to stay at the HTC retreat flat, where I had visited many times when it was home to several dear chaplains and their families I had known over the years.*

**When we first met back in January you said you felt a "call" to get involved with some work with refugees here in Greece. Can you say a bit about how that worked out?**

*Another reason for my return to Greece involved what I had discerned to be a call on my life to help the refugee situation here as best I could. I reached out to camps on Lesbos, Chios, and Samos, but for a variety of reasons, these doors seemed to be closed. I explored serving in Athens. I was at a loss as to what next to try, so I did what I should have done from the beginning...I waited on the Lord's timing.*

**Please could you tell us about the Ukrainian family you met in Corfu.**

*Suddenly the Ukraine was under attack and thousands were forced to flee. Many found refuge in Greece, and some in Corfu. I answered a Facebook post about helping a family that was newly arrived in Potamos, and became introduced to Amina (age 13), Makar (age 9) and their mother, Yana. Yana's husband has stayed behind in their village, quite close to the Russian border, to defend their country. The family is staying with Vasilis and his Ukrainian born wife, Yulia, whose brother is the one in the Ukrainian army.*



(L-R) Yulia, Makar, Sophia, Yana & Amina

**Is there anything that the family currently needs that the church could help with looking ahead?**

*With generous contributions from some Canadian friends and friends here at HTC, my daughter and I were able to outfit Amina and Makar with some new clothes and shoes and to give their mother some financial help. Since I have returned to Canada, Chris Spatoula has kindly agreed to continue to collect any other contributions that anyone feels led to give in terms of financial help, groceries, etc., which she will give to the refugee family.*

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

**I see you're booked in at the Retreat Flat again next January. Can we look forward to your visits being a regular occurrence now?**

*I'm looking forward to visiting with the Ukrainian family again, if they are still on the island, when I return to Corfu in January of next year.*

**I would like to end by saying how lovely it was to have you staying in the flat. A big thank you from us all for painting the garden furniture and for lovingly tending the garden and keeping everywhere so tidy. We really missed your presence when you left after Easter...and we are looking forward to seeing you again next year. Do you have any final words for the Pulse Readers?**

*Many thanks to all of my wonderful friends in Corfu for making my winter stay such a delightful and meaningful one.*

*My airline ticket is booked and so is the retreat flat, so God willing, I will see you again in 2023, and hopefully for many winters to come. I can't wait!*

*Elaine*



## **SOME PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE AND RUSSIA TAKEN FROM A WEDNESDAY NIGHT VIGIL**

Loving God,

We pray for the People of Ukraine. For all those suffering or afraid. That you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis we may reach out in solidarity, to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways, so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine, and for all the world.

God of peace and justice, send your blessings on the people of Ukraine and Russia. Sustain them in their courage and hold them in their fear. Protect them from all danger, and be for them the hope they desire.

For Jesus Christ's sake  
Amen

***JOIN US ON ZOOM 7PM ON WEDNESDAYS - Email HTC for the link***

# GETTING BACK TO... 'NORMAL'

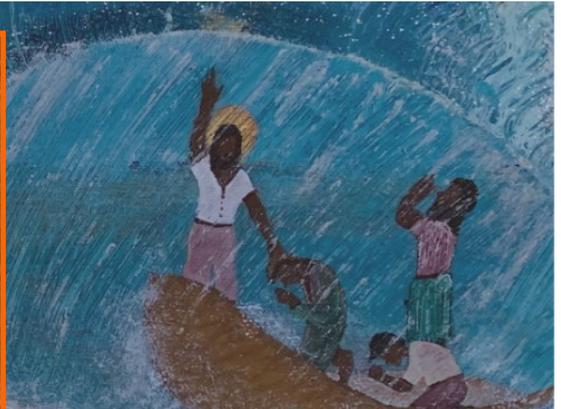


"Such a joy to stay and chat again after worship, and to welcome old friends back on holiday. "

## 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)



07-14-1999

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



(See Genesis 6-8)

06-25-1999

OH, LOOKIT THAT ... NOAH'S INVITE HAS AN RSVP



**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)

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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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