

Dear Grayshott,

May 2020

I am sure we have all been shocked by the developments round the world in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. We are all in awe of the extraordinary work of our NHS, and the very many people working in the supply chain, and food and pharmaceutical industries, the wonderful responses to the appeals for masks, and medical scrubs, and the volunteer help to respond to requests for deliveries to those in mandatory isolation either because of their age or medical health. You have all been amazing.

I am hugely proud of the inspiration and drive that has gone into the very quick development of the Facebook Covid-19 Community Support Group vision, proposed by Phylcia Andre, and her two brilliant helpers Rachel Lewis, and Lynne Phair, who together with the cooperation of the local council have led, co-ordinated and rallied a fantastic army of volunteers to bring essential food and medication to the vulnerable living in the local area. This wave of support, with their superb leadership has resulted in comfort and encouragement for many. Those afraid of being forgotten, have been comforted; those worried about their health have been calmed by receiving their medication in time. This is an enormous achievement, and we salute this team and their efforts now.

Of course we remember our amazing NHS, whom Boris Johnston thanked with full emotion for saving his life, and our GP's and Pharmacy staff working hard to get necessary supplies to their patients, and the care homes working in very demanding conditions. Then there are all the businesses, who have provided food, deliveries, cooked meals, and essentials to those in need, stepping up and adapting significantly to facilitate this response. We thank you.

But we also want to remember those for whom this is all an unbridled disaster, for whom work orders have dried up, and shops and opportunities have closed, and those whose hope is low, and those who are just desperate to survive, wondering whether the Government support will reach them, and those who miss the criteria for help.

There is help, and we want to help you to connect with it. We are putting a form on our website with which to ask for help if you are in great need. And we will do our best to connect you with help. We are all sad the church building is shut, and some will ask the question: "where is God in all of this?" and I would say, right here with us in the midst of all the trouble; and for each of us, God is saying "come to me, talk to me, I will be with you in trouble, seek me, to find me.

I bless you all, and we are praying for our community, and beyond.  
Jeremy and Claire,

Jeremy Haswell,  
Vicar of St Luke's, Grayshott