



This flower cross is sent by Tony and Doreen Longstaff from their church in Yorkshire. They send Easter Greetings to all in North Knapdale as they are unable to join us this year!

Hi everyone,

That is Easter passed by! I hope you were able to join in with some of the Easter services on line or on the radio and television. Good too, to hear from friends and relatives on the phone or screen.

“Lock down” continues and while we welcome the protection it gives, it also saddens us at the loss of close contact with others. Two metres is a long way when we want to reach out to share love or give comfort with a friend. Keeping delivery people away from the door, having visitors stand back and stay outside cries out against our desire to be hospitable. But that is where we are, and in undergoing this discomfort, we actually give the gift of health and life to those who are ill and receiving care in hospital, we are allowing space for our health services to cope.

Please remember that a chat on the phone can make a tremendous difference for those who find this isolation a source of real anxiety and depression. Who do you know that you could call? No-one will ever complain of having too many calls.

Kasamba Congregation – Malawi:

We have been in touch with our friends in Kasamba, Malawi, our “Twins”. They have only recently had confirmation of a few (16 last Friday) cases of Corona Virus in Malawi, but they have started to introduce measures to reduce personal contacts – social distancing and no church services of more than 100.

The Mid Argyll Malawi twinning group are going to send some of the money held for our twinning work to Kasamba to help with support for their members and neighbours during this time. Malawi is a very poor country with limited health care cover and combating this virus will be very difficult.

We will keep you informed as this situation develops.

Bible Readings:

There are three bible passages to look at this week from the lectionary.

They are Psalm 16, 1st Peter chapter 1 vs 3 – 9, and John's Gospel Chapter 20 vs 19 – 31.

If you have company at home during this lockdown perhaps you could look at them together? If you are on your own, make a cup of tea and take time to read through them.

Psalm 16: Read this slowly, verse by verse and write down one phrase or verse which particularly stands out for you. If you have company, talk together about these phrases, if on your own think about what it is that drew your attention to "your" phrase.

1 Peter Chapter 1 vs 3 – 9: This is a little extract from the letter from Peter, Jesus friend and "rock", to a number of very new churches established around the area of what is now Turkey. Written around AD 60, less than 30 years since Christ's resurrection, and Peter is in Rome where he is soon to be killed by the Roman Emperor, Nero. The Christians in these churches are also being persecuted, they live in fear for their lives, as the Romans, and their own neighbours want to stamp out these followers of Jesus - a living God, who has defeated death, and inspires a way of life based on loving enemies and friends alike.

Can you read this section from Peter's letter imagining that you are trying to follow Jesus and yet are hounded by the authorities and persecuted by your neighbours. How do these words encourage you to carry on?

John Chapter 20 vs 19 – 31: Jesus visits the disciples several times after the resurrection and encourages and teaches. Here we have two visits eight days apart. As I was reading this I was struck by words that Jesus uses to encourage them, and can also encourage us.

Peace: verse 9

Send: verse 21

Receive: verse 22

Forgive: verse 23

Blessed: verse 29

Believe: verse 31.

As you read through these verses ask yourself – "What do these words of Jesus mean for me?"

Keep in touch:

Please send in your news, items or comments to put into the newsletter so they can be sent around.