

## The Pastoral Team Write

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If you take a look at our church website - [www.mottramparish.org.uk](http://www.mottramparish.org.uk) - the following words are the first thing you will see:

'The Bible tells us that the church is a family, and we are that - made up of all sorts of people, with all kinds of stories. Some of us have been around the church for decades, others are just beginning to explore what it's all about. Some live just next door, others travel from some distance. Not one of us is perfect...We meet because of Jesus, because he loves us...'

You might well skip over these words on your way to navigating to the page you want, maybe to download the magazine, or to look at the Lockdown photographs, and both are highly recommended! But these are important words. If we believe we are a family then it's our job to look after and care for each other, particularly at difficult times like this. This is one way we can show the love of Jesus.

Just as we are supporting and keeping in touch with our own individual families, as best as we can, it is so important to stay connected together as the family of the church. The church building may be closed, but the church family is very much alive and active, in regular email bulletins, bible study and prayer. The church has always been a place where people have visited, shopped, given lifts to others. We continue to do that today, although for now, visits have been replaced by our telephone support network, regular telephone calls from a group of volunteers, appreciated by many, especially those living alone. We are at the end of the telephone for anyone who needs any help or even just to talk to someone during these extraordinary times.

We see this concern for others, all around us, locally with the various Covid 19 support groups, and our Foodbanks, as well as regionally and nationally - remember the hundreds of thousands of people who signed up as NHS volunteers. It has been spoken about recently by both the Queen and the Prime Minister; with this wonderful quote from the Queen "our streets are not empty, they are filled with the love and the care that we have for each other."

Our prayer is that this should continue beyond the present lockdown. If anything good is to come out of this dreadful virus, it may be that people will be kinder to each other; we will love our neighbour more - regardless of whether that neighbour lives on our street, or on another continent.

So stay safe everyone. We look forward to the time when we can all meet together to worship the God who loves us, just as we remember the new commandment Jesus gave us to "love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

After all, love never fails.  
*Christine, Kath and Chris*