

Minister's February 2021 Newsletter

In front of me I have two cards with the following pictures: a young girl with a finger up each nostril, an animation of a hedgehog strutting confidently, holding a star. Both the girl and the hedgehog look quite cheeky and mischievous. Along with the messages contained within them they cheer me up and lift my spirits. Communications, messages, can make such a difference. During this harsh Winter and the ongoing Covid-19 social restrictions, a card, a letter, a phone call, an email, a message can mean a great deal. To varying degrees we may be experiencing loneliness, weariness and boredom.

A message can have a profound impact. St Paul was a great messenger to the early churches. His letters contain many features, from warnings to consolation, rebuke to reconciliation, testimonies of hardship and hope, deep theological insights into the mystery of God and grace, practical instructions on how to live the Christian life. These letters contained in the New Testament, have been treasured by the Church over the centuries. They can be returned to again and again for inspiration and guidance. There is a vast treasure trove of inspiring quotes from the letters, which can greatly assist us through many circumstances. Let me close with this one from Ephesians chapter three, verses 14 to 21.

A Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ 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, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

May God bless you in this season of Lent and approaching Easter

Rev Duncan C. Eddie

PS Holy Week and Easter services 2021 will be shared online by clergy and congregations of the City Centre and West End Churches. Details are to follow.