

## Thought for the Day – 22<sup>nd</sup> May

***The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone'. (Genesis 2.18)***

How long do you spend out in the street on Thursday evenings clapping the NHS? I am not aware of any recommended length of time, but I suspect that these occasions are serving an additional purpose: talking to our neighbours, even though it means shouting across the road. Here is the one spontaneous social event which can replace chatting at the school gates or catching up over a coffee after the church service. Indeed, I would not be surprised if people have started talking to each other who, although neighbours, have hardly exchanged more than an occasional greeting since they moved in.

My text today reveals that God has not made us to be solitary creatures. Even though in Genesis it refers specifically to God creating Eve as a companion and helpmeet for Adam, we can see that generally as humans we do not thrive without friends and company, which many of us are now deprived of, albeit temporarily. Even those who are used to living alone are now unable to invite someone to tea, or to meet up with a friend for a meal, or to go into town for some retail therapy. Being 'in solitary' is a severe form of punishment in prison.

In these circumstances it is a welcome resource that we have digital social networking to turn to. New online publications are appearing, such as our own Christ Church Connections, and services can now be streamed live into our homes with the amazing facility of seeing each other while the service is in progress. Only a few years ago no such devices were available. Just as in wartime new technologies are developed which can also be applied to peacetime use, so I suspect that facilities like zoom will become much more familiar as a result of this pandemic keeping us physically apart. (Which means old folk like me will either have to catch up or be left behind!)

It also means that many of those who have got used to working from home might continue to do so in greater numbers now they have the resources for it, which will in turn relieve the commuter crush twice a day and at the same time benefit the environment. Thus most of us will have more control over the use of our time, and if we learn self-discipline there will be more time to spend in communion with God, who is always with us and is seeking to enter ever more deeply into our lives. This pandemic may yet become the means by which we find how to live in greater harmony with our Maker and our fellow human beings.

John Tiller

*Remember, you can send your prayer request to: [Prayer@baystonhillchurch.org](mailto:Prayer@baystonhillchurch.org)*

*Or ring: (01743) 583215*

**May you rest on the firmest of foundations**

*And you can read these Thought for the Day articles on our website too at [www.baystonhillchurch.org](http://www.baystonhillchurch.org)*