



Churches Together in Alresford August 2020 Newsletter

One Lord, one Faith, one baptism (Ephesians 4:5)

CTIA Giving

As regular readers of this Newsletter will know, CTIA, every two years, adopts a charity, National, International or local, which it supports through its various fund-raising initiatives. Charities receiving our support in recent years have included

- **Christian Aid:** for subsistence farmers in Zimbabwe
- **Home Start:** for disadvantaged families in Winchester
- **Firefly International:** educating Syrian Refugees in Turkey
- And in 2020 **Winchester Youth Counselling**

Due to the Covid-19 crisis our fund-raising initiatives are somewhat curtailed – no barn dance, no carol singing! – but to donate to our currently adopted charity, please contact them on admin@winchesteryouthcounselling.org

Covid-19

It is so very sad that for months now we have been unable to meet in our churches and enjoy the interaction that comes with daily or Sunday worship. And for CTIA it was especially saddening that this year we were unable to hold our Good Friday Walk of Witness, one of the big occasions when we meet, walk, pray and break bread together while commemorating Christ's passion and death.

Now, as lockdown is eased and plans are made for the re-opening of churches for daily prayer and worship, my heart goes out to all the clergy of our churches who are preparing for this re-opening, mindful as they have to be of ever-changing directives from national government, and from their own ecclesiastical hierarchies, while conscious all the time of their continuing pastoral role, virus or no virus. So clap for clergy! And, of course, for all the diligent and dynamic laity who support our clergy at this most trying of times.

And how do we pray during this time?

I'm no expert: but during the period of the corona virus - and to be sure before that – there has been no lack of prayerful variation which we may wish to tap into during these weird times. Three I found of particular help and, by way of the wonders of on-line accessibility, easily available, as follows:-

- **Prayers for use during the coronavirus outbreak:** published by the Church of England: this is available as a booklet from St John's Church or also can be downloaded from www.CofE.io/ChurchOnline with Morning and Evening Prayer, Prayers with children, and other Personal Prayers
- The Methodist Church - www.Methodist.org.uk and look for "Prayers during the Coronavirus pandemic" has a lovely "**Psalm of Lament and Praise in time of coronavirus**"
- Or, for a daily dose from the Jesuits, not necessarily related to the current crisis, there is a lovely app called **Sacred Space**, a free download with daily reflections on the Presence of God, and of the Freedom he gives us, and with a bible reading of the day, with added mood music as an option.

Piers Armstrong, St Gregory's RC Church