

**Pastoral Letter #3 | 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020**

***As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.***

***Colossians 2:6-7***



Dear

***‘continue to live your lives in him’.*** As I read those words this weekend I was struck by how different life looks now to how it did only a few weeks ago – and how at times it really doesn’t feel like I’m continuing anything. Almost everything that was in my diary over the last 6 weeks has been cancelled or postponed, and almost everything I’m doing now, whether it be work or family life, is very much different to how it normally is or was planned to be. How can I continue anything?

But after my instinctive reaction, I soon realised that this summons to the disciples of Colossae was not about the practicalities of church life and family living, but about **continuing living in Jesus**. Continuing to be rooted and built up in Christ. Continuing to sustain and deepen the faith they have already been pursuing, the faith they have already been taught and grounded in. Always giving thanks.

In the last few weeks, I’ve had good days and bad days.

Happy days and sad days.

Days where I’ve felt I’ve made a difference.

Days when I’ve wondered if I should even have got out of bed!

Yet all the while, no matter how I’ve felt about the ‘stuff’ of my day, I’ve been certain of the fact that Jesus is there beside me. I found this stone on the beach last week (see over), round with a hole in it, and to me, it

was like the empty tomb. it now sits on my desk next to my little stone cross as a reminder that no matter how I feel at any moment of any day, Jesus is alive and with me every step of the way.

**As you continue to live in Jesus, I pray you know for yourself that he lives and is with you every step of the way.**



Enclosed, please find some additional worship resources that go alongside the previous pack I sent out, which take us to 10<sup>th</sup> May. I encourage you to continue to use them alongside what we previously sent out in whatever way works best for you. I've given some suggestions, but please do adapt them if you feel it would work better for you.

I've also included an invitation to read the book of Acts together through May. I hope and pray you'll join with me, adapting what I'm suggesting to a way that works for you. I'm suggested sharing with a friend or an already established house group.

Another option I'm exploring is the possibility of using some technology to hold a conference call with people on their landlines/mobiles alongside others on webcams – as a way of us all being able to gather together. I need to work out how it works, but if you may be interested, please let me know and if there is demand for it I will work out how it works and share the details of how we will run it with you.



I pray as you use these or other resources, you know the constancy of God's presence and stillness with you day by day.

***In peace & hope,***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Balsdon', enclosed within a simple oval outline.

**Rev Dan Balsdon**