

Dear Grayshott,

June 2020

Lock-down and the Covid-19 have affected everyone in the world in one way or another, whether it is business, politics, economics, education, communication, family, healthcare, and church. Rethinking everything has been exhausting. The rules to be out of the church building have affected many, both occasional and regular service attenders. We must also not forget the great global tragedies unfolding, like the plight of East Africans, where with Covid-19, they have death by floods, and crops lost to locusts, and so face starvation.

Our heart goes out to the families who have lost loved ones but couldn't be with them in their last moments, and had very restricted funerals. The local community response has been amazing, with many looking out for their friends and neighbours, and networks of helpers making isolating and shielding bearable for which I thank you all. Still the big questions arise about what life is all about, and what makes a life valuable. Is there a God? Is there more than this? And what is real among all the 'spiritualities' and practices on offer? Interestingly, Russell Brand has been online saying that one of the top Google searches now is 'prayer'.

Jesus made claims about himself, and the Kingdom of Heaven, about the value of life, and a single soul, by giving himself to suffer, die and rise, in his words, to 'save those who have lost their way'. Many will know the words of John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Trusting Him is the path to peace. He said put your treasure in heaven, not in material things that rust and decay.

Psalm 23, says "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, he leads me..." Start to explore the character of the God who cares about us as individuals, even in the "valley of the shadow of death"! Prayer is simply talking to God. The church *hasn't* gone away, because the doors are closed, our YouTube channel is 'St Luke's Grayshott', do subscribe. And look up [www.prayercourse.org](http://www.prayercourse.org). to help to start the conversation.

We send our love and blessings to you all, and pray for you, wherever you are.  
Jeremy and Claire,

Rev. Jeremy Haswell,  
Vicar of St Luke's, Grayshott