

Side by Side

I don't know about you, but going through this time of lockdown has meant that I am missing seeing and chatting with friends, my work colleagues and especially everyone in the band or those friends who I would usually see at Hadleigh Temple every week. It was lovely to be able to stand side by side with some of you at the funeral of Keith the other day and see each other's faces and say a distanced "hello" 😊.

I know many of us have been trying to phone each other to catch up and chat to each other but for me, it sometimes feels like I'm taking "two steps forwards and one step back" and not really making much progress or being very effective. I almost feel like giving up!

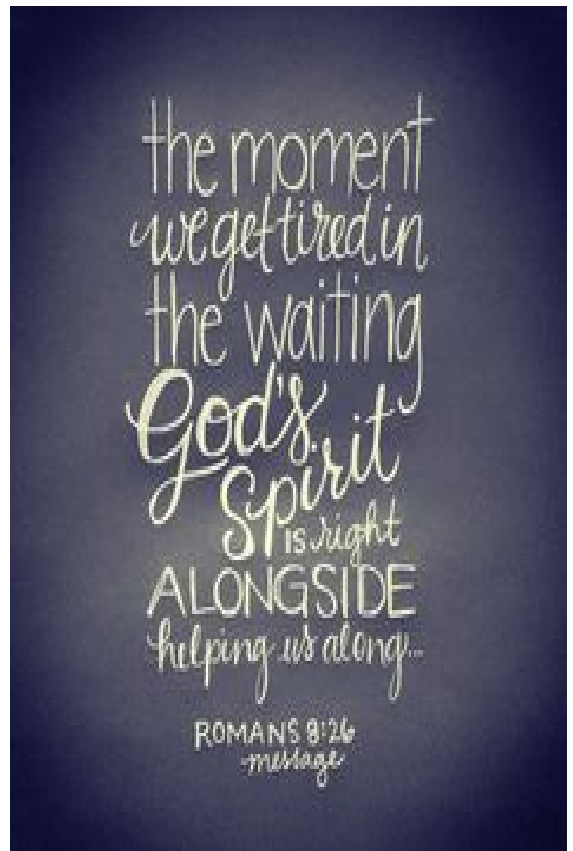
It made me realise that very little of our conversations are about words. Our smiles, our eyes and our gestures all play a big part in how we communicate with each other and very often we can see how a person is feeling without them having to say anything at all. When we don't have that face to face interaction, phone calls, text messages, emails etc, although good, don't always give us the true picture. We can also feel like we are invisible.

The other day I was reading from a book by Bear Grylls called "Soul Fuel" and came across this story: -

"Lord Radstock, the missionary who played a part in the Great Russian Awakening, was once staying in a hotel in Norway. He heard someone playing the piano badly downstairs in the hallway and went to investigate. He found a little girl hammering the keys, unaware that her tuneless melody was driving Radstock mad.

As he watched, Radstock saw a man approach the piano and sit down on the stool beside the girl. She carried on playing the same dud notes, but the man filled in the gaps. To Radstock's amazement, the pair produced the most beautiful music. It was only later that he discovered that the man was the girl's father, Alexander Borodin, composer of the opera "Prince Igor".

So much of our journey of faith and love is like this too - it's a relationship where our tuneless notes, our mess, our attempts to do our best only come to life when Christ stands beside us and touches our hearts. It takes Him edging us on towards love and light, into kindnesses and hidden good works, into doing bold, brilliant things with our life. With his touch we can in turn touch lives all around us. Hand in hand, every day, never looking too far ahead or behind, with His presence our lives come to life.



And just like that father with the little girl, God is always close.”

In Romans 8: 26 we read:

The moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along.

I loved that story and it is a good reminder that when we seek God in all that we do, he will make everything, even our most clumsy efforts, beautiful.

So, don't give up and keep doing your best - even when it may feel like you're not making any difference with what you are trying to achieve.

Keep phoning each other, keep texting, keep zooming and most of all, keep smiling!

Marise