

Thoughts from the Manse 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Covid 19 has changed many features of our lives and will probably continue to do so for some time to come. There are many things we have missed, and some things with which we have reconnected. We have learnt to adapt our lifestyles; we have also remembered how we rely on others.



Looking through my diary I noticed that last Sunday would have been the McMillan Coffee Morning at St Ninians URC. This has become an annual event which has raised, on average, £200 every year for McMillan. Around the country this would have been replicated in churches, offices and homes and the sum raised would be significant. Charities are some of the big losers of the pandemic as events have had to be cancelled. All the churches raise money for charity, through quizzes, lunches, and other initiatives, which all rely on meeting together. How can we continue to support charities through creative initiative?

Early on in the pandemic, Marie Curie ran a series of zoom quiz nights, involving some celebrities, and raised a lot of money. I know that many families are holding quiz nights as a creative way of keeping in touch, perhaps there could be a charity element to those. Another idea might be to make afternoon teas and deliver them for charity.



Personally, I discovered that some people were struggling to get greetings cards during lockdown and as one of my hobbies is card making, I decided that I would make cards in aid of the charity Practical Action.

Many of us will have continued to make donations to charities but doing something which involves other people prompts them to think about what they could do. What are your hobbies and how might you use them to help a good cause? Perhaps we should challenge each other's creativity to refresh our charity giving. Baking, jam making, car cleaning, gardening, sewing face masks and shopping are all activities which many have done for others during lockdown but could they also be a means of encouraging charitable giving to support the vital work of the hundreds of organisations that seek to do things that support and enable those who are struggling in the world.



If you are doing something, please let me know, and I will share it on the website to encourage and stimulate all of us as we move forward into the new normal.

We are one with each other; we are each unique with a different palette of skills and gifts; sharing includes sharing those gifts for the benefit of all humanity. God calls us to be one in love. In our prayers, we think of others and what needs to happen for them to experience the fullness of life, we can be the answer to that prayer, working together to make a difference by using our skills to support those who have the specific skills needed to help others. This pandemic should not be an excuse but a stimulus to be creative in our thinking.