

## On the Covid Frontline

One of my colleagues returned to work this week and very pleased we were to see her. She had x-rayed a patient who had later been admitted onto a Covid ward and had subsequently developed cold and flu symptoms but seems fine now after her period in isolation. She'd sent in a daily update which had become increasingly positive. Who knows whether she had the virus or not, there was no facility to test her, but she certainly gave us a scare.

Tragically, others have been less fortunate. Seven NHS workers have now fallen victim to Covid-19, all almost certainly infected occupationally. Some are workers who have retired and returned, some are young people in the prime of life. Two are nurses in their thirties who each left three young children without a mother. Our thoughts and our fervent prayers go out to their families, and to those of all who have fallen victim to Covid-19.

By the time you read this I am grimly sure that the number of health worker fatalities will have risen.

When we set out upon a career in health most of us have altruistic motives, and we know that our services will be required twenty-four hours a day and three hundred and sixty-five days a year. We know that we will be required to do unpleasant things and possibly meet unpleasant or even dangerous people. But, unlike those in the armed services, we do not seriously expect to have to put our lives on the line in the course of our duties.

But now that has changed, and we face the possibility that our work may make us grievously or fatally ill. You would see right through me if I attempted to pretend that none of us are scared, but not one of my colleagues have drawn back from their duty. I am intensely moved by their courage.

Please pray that the supply chain will be able to deliver sufficient personal protective equipment to keep all health workers safe, so that we all can have the confidence that as much as possible is being done to keep us safe. Please pray for strength and courage for those getting increasingly tired as a result of the ongoing pressure.

And please pray that people will have the common sense to stay at home if they can – the only way this virus can survive is by being passed on from person to person before it kills or is killed by the immune systems of infected people.



*This comes from Nigel Beeton, who works for the NHS, and who also happens to be one of the resident poets on Parish Pump!  
Nigel hopes to continue this as a regular Diary during the crisis.*



*over trial.* The apostle Paul says: “*In all these things (trials) we are more than conquerors through him who loved us, Christ.*” (Rom 8:28-39)

Thus, faith in Christ is not a vaccine against all evil, but a guarantee of total security, the security that “if God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31). *This psalm is not a promise of complete immunity, but a declaration of full trust.*

Chance does not exist in the believer's life. The majestic providence of our personal God –the Abba- shines brightly in the darkest moments: “A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you” (Psalm 91:7).

Nothing will happen to us if He does not allow it. Our life is not at the mercy of a virus, but in the hands of the Almighty God. Therein lies the certainty of our faith and the foundation of the trust that overcomes all fear. There is no place for triumphalism, but there is certainly triumph. It is the triumph that Christ assured us with His victory over evil and the evil one on the Cross. It is the same Christ whose last words on Earth were: “I am with you always, to the end of the age”. (Matt. 28:20)



## **Some simple ideas**

Pick up the phone.

For the more technically confident, introduce more people to video phone calls via Apple Facetime or Google Duo.

Is there a WhatsApp group on your street? Why not start one, to make sure that all your neighbours are safe, and no one is in need?

Become your street's pastor: start praying each day for each one of your neighbours, and let it be known that you will help in any way if someone is in trouble. Kindness and compassion go a long way in a crisis.

Make the most of your family. Your children may drive you crazy at times but think about it: this is the only chance you may ever have to spend so much time with them. So do some home projects together, play games together, study together and cook together. Read the Bible with them, pray with them and TALK to them. How well do you actually know your own family?

*Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. - John Wesley*