

Letter from the Minister

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Dear Friends,

I hope that Easter was a good time for you and that you were able to participate in some of the things we have been trying to do as a church. I must admit, as I have been moving through Lent and into Easter I have also had one eye on our mission trip to Sierra Leone and there have been questions bouncing around in my mind:

Will we be able to fit everything in our luggage? Will the flights be changed again? Will what I have prepared to share with the Pastors be understandable and helpful to them? Will I remember all that I have been told I need to do in installing and repairing wells?

At the end of the day we place our trust and hope in the living God. We have seen much evidence of his faithfulness and provision in different ways especially in the generosity of those who have offered us help and support. Please pray for us in our mission work and for the church in its work in our absence until 15th May.

When all is said and done, I am left with the overwhelming sense that all we seek to do whether at home or abroad is motivated by the love of Jesus. God's word says: *"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"* (1 John 3:1). Somebody once said that the instruction to 'see' makes imperative the 'need to take time to contemplate this love and allow its reality to sink down into the depths of our being. It is meant to take our breath away, to startle and amaze us so that we are left gasping'.

When we really contemplate God's love for us in Christ, it changes our lives, our attitudes and the way we do things as individuals, as a church and as a community. In these weeks between Easter and Pentecost, I would encourage you to wait upon the Lord and soak yourself in his love whilst you think about some of the Holy Habits of the early church that we are thinking about this year from Acts Chapter 2. Knowing that you are a beloved child of God makes all the difference, especially when life can be tough sometimes.

I pray that you will know the love of Jesus in a powerful way this month and that you will find ways by word, action or thought to share it with other people who God also loves deeply.

In Christ

Eddie