

# Musings from the Manse-Week 12 07/06/20

**Video consultation** A few people have asked if there was any progress with my hand problem. I must admit it's getting a bit frustrating. I know it is very difficult at the moment to get any non-urgent medical treatment. Things were getting pretty bad though. I had a GP referral to a specialist which was a step forward. A few days later I received a letter from the hospital in Bognor Regis, that was efficient, it was to cancel the non-existent appointment. There was a phone number to call to discuss the matter, which I duly rang. I got through quickly and was soon speaking with a friendly receptionist. She asked me a few questions and said she would get a consultant to give me a call back. She couldn't say when, but it would be as soon as possible. My sceptical mind thought, where have I heard that before. Remembering my printer problems of last week. Two hours later my phone rang it was the consultant. I was amazed. She asked me a few questions, got me to try and move my fingers. She was asking at first for me to do these things with my left hand. I obviously could do all she was saying. Then the penny dropped she looked at her notes and realised it was by right hand that was the trouble. I must admit to being puzzled by her questions. We had a laugh about that. She then asked if we could do a video consultation with a split screen. I of course agreed. It was a good experience to see someone and be able to interact. Yes, that was very encouraging. However, the outcome is I still can't use my hand and have to wait two months for a review.

It got me thinking, OK although this may not be to everyone's liking I am sure it may be the route we take in future. An initial speedy consultation will save time and money. The NHS recorded over 13 million no show appointments last year. So much more may have to be done online in the future. People have had to quickly embrace technology recently, will it continue I wonder, or will there be a rejection of it? Last year I remember joking about the church having a virtual online service in hand just in case the visiting minister didn't turn up. We are almost getting to the stage of Virtual services, any time anywhere any style. . That must fill some folks with horror.

**Why don't we do that?** There have been a few, just a few negative comments floating round this week. I am all too aware of frustration setting in. I hear people comment that they have just seen a live streamed service from St. Cuthbert's-by-the gas works, and it was brilliant, they had a worship band, a gifted speaker, amazing prayers and the video looked so professional, why can't we do that? Good question. Why can't we do that, why don't we do that? Resources, expertise and particular talent may be a clue. Don't forget many of these churches had already been producing online worship and were ahead of the game come lock down. It is not a problem for anyone to access these public domain services. We need to get our spiritual feeding wherever we can these days. Its great they have this ministry. There should be no competition in all of this. **Don't Compare and despair.** We do what we can do and do it to the best of our ability. There is a real danger when we get into this mindset of ignoring the things we are good at. This is a time of building up not pulling down. We need to turn this down time to our advantage see it as a time to pray, study and reflect. Discover **New ideas for the future?** We can never be the same as we were, really. Churches need a game plan for the months ahead. What will the new church look like in this coming new normal? **Starting blocks or stumbling blocks?** Will we be fired up with new ways to serve and minister to our community – out there. Or will we be more concerned about our internal structures, racing to get back to the way we were?

**Hebrews 10:24-25** *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”* **2 Corinthians 5:7** *“For we live by faith, not by sight.”*

Although at this moment we may not meet with each other physically this is just a short period, a blink of an eye in Gods eternity Remember ... He has a plan.

Andrew and Jill