

***Disruption* and the seeds of our renewal**

Proverbs 19:21

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Easter newsletter as our world gets turned upside down.

The sheer scale of the destruction wreaked by Covid-19 is almost impossible to imagine and the human tragedy is heart-breaking. And yet, in spite of this great disruption, we see seeds of hope and signs that the crisis may hasten a national renewal, possibly even the reform of the global order itself.

As we approach Easter, despite the sense of loss and disorientation, we see a beautiful community spirit being resurrected, with thousands of neighbourly support groups and countless acts of kindness. Respect for key workers is now widely expressed after decades of indifference. This seismic event is affecting everything and the balance of power will inevitably change. People are realising that it is in their interests to work together for the Common Good.

Living in lockdown has its benefits - connecting with friends and family and taking more time to think and pray. So in this edition, we've gathered plenty of resources for you to explore.

We are looking at the crisis through the lens of Common Good thinking: **Wayne Parsons** meditates on this time of disruption as wilderness and believes it could be the impetus for a

new political settlement, while **Kelly Johnson** sees the pandemic as a moment of conversion as we recognise our interdependence, and **Jerry Beyer** reflects on solidarity in light of social distancing.

We've looked at the **implications for our politics** and assembled some links to articles by some of the smartest thinkers. Also below you'll find a collection of useful links to **practical resources** as you lend a hand in your communities. Finally, as churches are sadly closed, we share with you **guidance for churches wanting to move online**, plus some examples of **streamed services** to give you a flavour of what is already going on.

Once the pandemic is over, our **Common Good training resources** will help churches play their part in the great task of civic renewal. In the meantime you will find a wealth of inspiration and information on our **website**. We are fortunate to be able to work from home and our team is pursuing the T4CG agenda with renewed energy. Among other things we are putting together a new webinar series, to be announced in the coming weeks.

God bless you and your neighbours this Easter
Together for the Common Good



Disruption and the Common Good

Finding the Common Good flowering in the wilderness

As we approach Holy Week, seasoned economist **Wayne Parsons** is meditating on the pandemic as a time of wilderness. But despite the scale of the disruption, he feels energised as our deserted streets are flowering with examples of kindness and solidarity. The crisis is also exposing the failings of a system that has exploited and dehumanised for too long. Perhaps, he wonders, God is urging us to learn from the experience and

press the reset button.

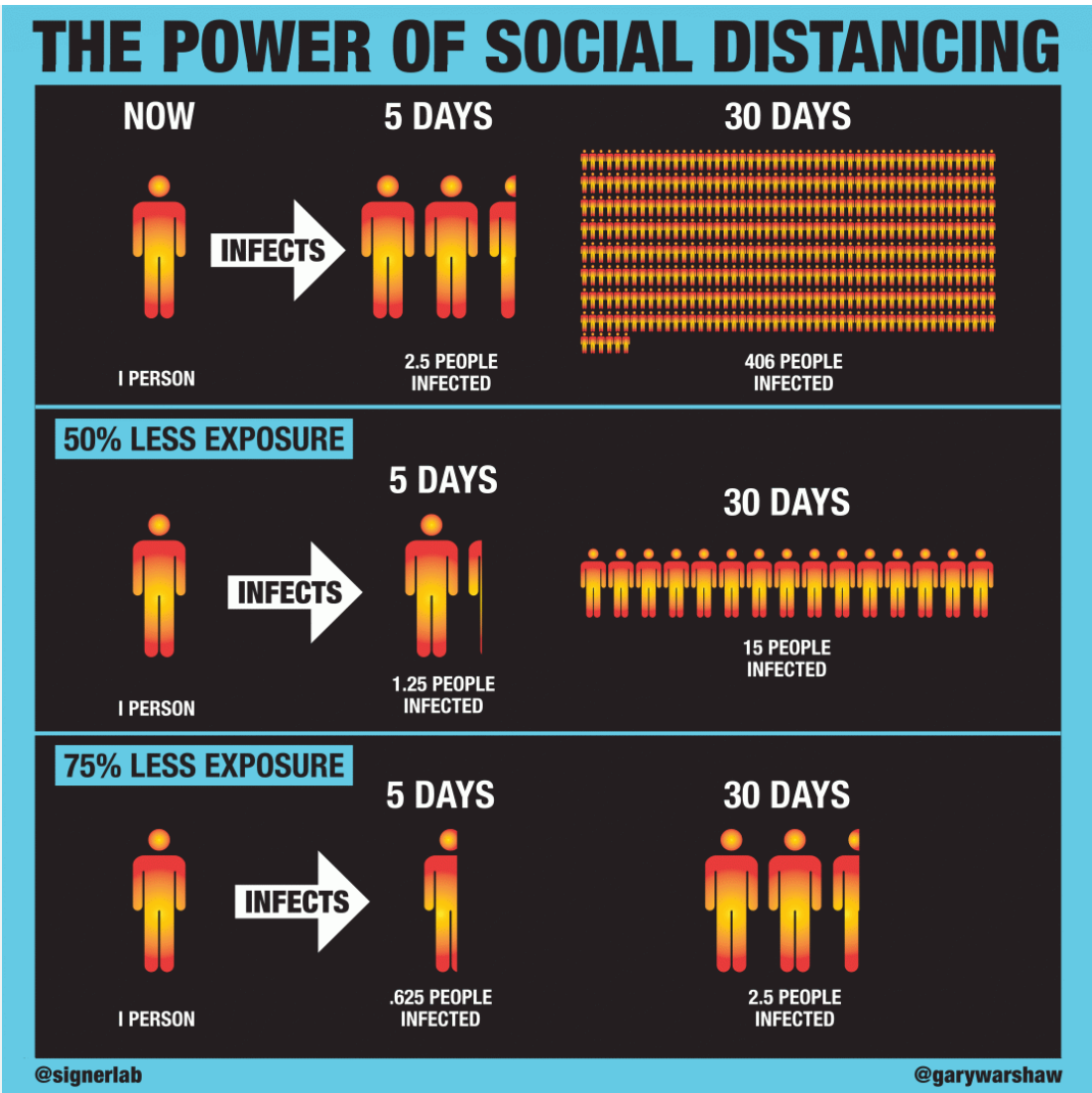
Read the full meditation [here](#) (7 mins)



Pandemic and the Common Good

A crisis like Covid-19 could be a moment of conversion, says **Kelly Johnson**. In this extraordinary moment, where we feel our interdependence so keenly, there is a chance for us build up our ability to promote the common good and to share our joy in seeing it emerge, even in the midst of shared suffering.

Read the full essay [here](#) (12 mins)



Solidarity and social distancing

Few imagined that the most well-known principle of Catholic social thought would require human beings to stay apart. But as **Gerald Beyer** explains, Covid-19 social distancing measures don't just demonstrate that solidarity is essential for our survival. They also expose the consequences of the neglect of solidarity in cultures dominated by excessive individualism, not least in the United States.

[Read the full essay here](#) (12 mins)



The implications of Covid-19 on our political settlement

What are the longer term implications of Covid-19 for the political realignment that was already underway? Here are some links to help you make sense of what's going on.

John Gray explains why this is a **turning point in our history** and what is likely to change.

Mary Harrington: **a different society is emerging**, more place-bound, more mutualistic.

Luke Bretherton advises that the crisis prompts us to ask why a good life cannot be one built on the **domination, exploitation or abandonment** of others.

Nick Timothy argues that the global order was already unravelling and the crisis provides a historic opportunity **to build something better**.

Ben Gummer believes that **when historians look back at this time** they will show that years before Covid-19 arrived, we were already embarked upon seismic political change.

Adrian Pabst: the only **lasting antidote to pandemics** is a stronger civic society.

Vidhya Alakeson: the Chancellor should **hand power, not just money, to communities**.

Maurice Glasman sets out in detail the case for **deconcentrating capital**.

James Rebanks says **Britain needs to value its farmers** and wake up to food security.

David Goodhart sees commonalities between greens and conservatives when looking at the **effects of the pandemic on globalisation and trade**.

Philip Booth notes that **globalisation had major benefits:** millions lifted out of poverty.

Polly Mackenzie: when the Covid-19 crisis is over **we will need a stimulus on a massive scale** to rebuild our social bonds: relationships, friendships, and communities.

Alasdair Soussi notes the **return of a viable opposition leader** but **Blue Labour** cautions that **a spectre is haunting the Labour Party**.

Danny Kruger and **Jon Cruddas** join forces to argue that **left and right must unite** to repair our broken communities in their cross party review, **Repairing our Social Fabric**.

Listen to **the End of the 30 year Itch** on **BBC Radio 4** with post-liberal contributors commenting on how Covid-19 may impact the new political era already underway.

[Click to view this section online](#)



Supporting your community during Covid-19

During Covid-19, church communities are playing their part in their neighbourhoods, supporting the vulnerable and front line workers - as neighbours looking out for neighbours as well as more formal volunteering. We've prepared a brief list of resources to help you. You can also access this list [online](#).

Our brief round up of useful links and practical resources

The Trussell Trust is **calling for more volunteers** and **especially from churches**. With the demand for food banks increasing, more food stocks are needed. The established volunteer base has fallen due to many regulars being in the at-risk group or self-

isolating, so volunteers of working age are urgently required for roles including warehouse staff, delivery drivers and social media advocates. Find out more [here](#).

Jubilee+ have a wealth of expertise for churches who run foodbanks and support disadvantaged communities through social action. They are doing [regular video updates](#) and providing online support to support churches during the Covid19 crisis.

The **Covid-19 Mutual Aid UK** volunteer network has now grown in just a few weeks to more than 4,000 groups across the UK. Communicating via Facebook or WhatsApp, groups are run entirely by volunteers, often members of churches. Those involved are supporting the most vulnerable at a hyper local level during the COVID19 outbreak with errands, information distribution and emotional comfort. To see the map [click here](#). To see a public shared document with the list of groups and links, [click here](#). To view resources, [click here](#). Many groups use the ViralKindness card, [downloadable here](#).

FareShare is the UK's national network of charitable food redistributors, made up of 17 independent organisations. They take good quality surplus food from the food industry and get it to almost 11,000 frontline charities and community groups. They currently [need volunteers](#) to get food to vulnerable people in one of two roles - as a warehouse assistant or as a driver. Register your interest [here](#).

Together Apart is [a new hub for rural churches](#) supporting people in rural areas during the pandemic, with a range of resources including farming and agriculture support, practical resources, guidance and advice, plus resources for children and families.

For the latest advice on the new rules about work or finances affected by COVID-19, or regarding changes to benefits, go to the **JustFinance Corona Virus Help Hub**. **Citizens Advice** also has a guidance page [here](#).

For guidance on helping homeless people during the crisis please find the latest updates and government advice at the **Housing Justice COVID-19 advice page** or download this [one page advice sheet](#).

YourNeighbour is a new initiative helping churches be good neighbours in the Covid-19 crisis. Started by the **GoodFaith Foundation** they aim to equip church leaders with the latest updates and resources and connect people in need to churches. They are calling for volunteers with experience in the following: Comms and Marketing; Tech & Digital; Church Leader Support; Working with the most vulnerable. Find out more [about volunteering here](#) and sign up for [updates here](#).

For a briefing on the [latest changes to Universal Credit](#), go to the **Joint Public Issues Team** who have expertise on the complexities of the system.

Government advice on how to register for coronavirus support [as a clinically extremely vulnerable person](#).

FaithAction has set up [a dedicated coronavirus page](#) containing general and faith-based guidance for mental health charities, advice for carers, victims of domestic abuse, and people from BAME groups.

Strong couple relationships are vital for family stability and with job losses, financial worries and domestic stress, many will find themselves struggling under pressure.

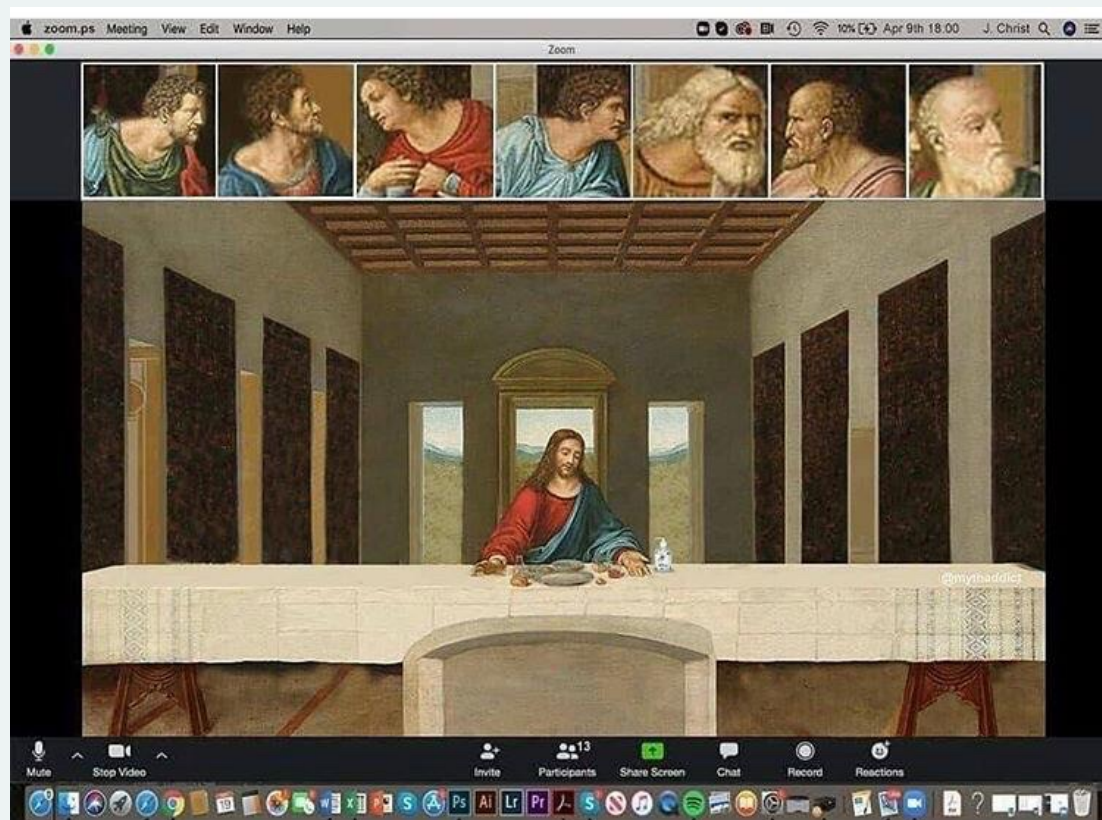
Marriage Care specialises in couple counselling and now operates entirely online. [Get in touch](#) to find out about the options available.

Government advice for how to help someone you believe is a victim of domestic abuse can be found [here](#).

In response to the uncertainty caused by the Coronavirus crisis, **Richard Newton Consulting** is producing a regular [newsletter with emergency funding opportunities](#) for charities delivering frontline Covid-19 responses.

Government advice for funeral arrangements can be found [here](#). A resource for those mourning loved ones who cannot attend the funeral, [click to download here](#).

[Click to view this list online](#)



Covid-19: churches go online

With all church buildings closed (apart from essential social outreach such as foodbanks, soup kitchens and night shelters) churches of all traditions are quickly moving online. You can also access this section [online here](#).

A brief review of resources to support churches moving online

The main denominations are approaching the government's request for church closures in different ways. The **Church of England** insists that live-streaming is done [from church](#)

leaders' homes and not from churches. For an interactive map of Anglican live-streamed and online engagement around the country, [click here](#). Training via webinars is available [here](#) and Zoom training is [here](#).

The **Catholic Church** on the other hand has resolved that **parish priests continue to celebrate Mass daily** from within locked churches. This is despite the absence of congregations. Many priests are live-streaming Masses and other devotions using a range of different platforms, especially [churchservices.tv](#).

For those looking for guidance on online engagement solutions or support, the **Covid Churches Handbook** is an outstanding and [comprehensive online resource](#) put together by a group of church communications professionals. It is a growing [crowdsourced index](#) for church leaders, communications teams and church staff of all traditions to refer to during the coronavirus outbreak, and includes advice and resources on everything for running a church during the Covid-19 crisis, from live-streaming and digital tools, to church management, outreach, and mental health advice.

Evangelical Alliance has an excellent resource page, [Top tips for doing church digitally](#) for churches during the Coronavirus. **Baptists Together** have produced a [guide for church leaders](#) new to online streaming. **The Methodist Church** has [a set of useful resources](#) including 'an at-home service if you can't get to a funeral' and 'doing your own live-streaming'. **The United Reformed Church** has an excellent [set of downloadable information guides](#) on how to record a podcast and how to use the most common social media platforms.

To cheer up your social media, the well-loved artist **Dave Walker** is providing [free and pay-what-you-can-afford cartoons](#) via the website [cartoonchurch.com](#).



What's happening online - some examples

Below we've assembled a list of examples of churches from different traditions who are adapting to the new reality.

Live-streaming is exploding - vast numbers of services and prayer related events are being held online and there is a great flourishing of creativity. Platforms such as [Zoom](#), [FacebookLive for Churches](#), [Churchservices.tv](#) and [YouTube](#) are being used and many churches are seeing sharp increases in attendance figures. The common hashtag is [#WithYouInSpirit](#).

Despite the distress about churches being locked, many find the shift online to be a blessing in unexpected ways. We hope you find this encouraging.

Revd Al Barrett is running a simple form of daily prayer twice a day, and sharing a [weekly 'worship pack'](#) for people to use at home, offering delivery of hard copies to people's homes if they request it. Liturgy, readings and reflections are shared via their church Facebook group or by email.

Student Cross - the week-long cross-carrying Easter pilgrimage for all ages is moving online this year. With an online liturgy streamed daily at 12 noon during Holy Week, they are also holding online stations of the cross four times a day - [anyone can join](#).

Every Monday evening at 8.30pm CET, **Taizé** [streams prayers live on Facebook](#) with a small group of brothers from the community.

Revd Giles Fraser is [streaming Mass twice a week](#) and wrote amusingly about his congregation's [online bonding experience](#) in his first experimental Eucharist, broadcast from his home using [Zoom](#).

Jesus House has its own TV channel [broadcasting six sessions a day](#).

Fr. Giuseppe Corbari from a parish close to Milan asked his parishioners to email him photos of themselves, which he [printed and stuck on the pews](#) so he can remember each of them when celebrating Mass alone in the locked church.

Fr Nick Mottershead at St Katharine Kree is posting [daily prayer videos](#) using [Vimeo](#).

More than 60 **Catholic parishes** in London are live-streaming Masses are [listed here](#).

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral is live-streaming Mass [every Sunday via YouTube](#).

The monks of **Stift Heiligenkreuz**, well known for their Gregorian chant tradition, are [live-streaming masses](#) every day from their chapel in the woods outside Vienna.

During Holy Week, **Revd Lucy Winkett** is [live-streaming services via YouTube](#) from her home at **St James's Piccadilly**.

Pope Francis broadcast his Urbi et Orbi ('to the City and the World') address from St Peter's Square. For the full text, [click here](#) and it is available [on YouTube](#).

The **Church of Scotland** has a list of Kirk services online [here](#).

CCC - Christ, Covid, Community is a [platform for prayer requests and community](#) on [Facebook](#) with contributions from many religious communities including Taizé, the

Corrymeela Community, Carmelites, Jesuits and many others.

Instead of its usual Sunday 'gatherings', **St Thomas' Norwich** (part of the HTB family) is providing resources to support worshipping at home: '**House**', with talks, online chat, videos, live streams and a weekly guide.

Soul Church, part of the **Hillsong** Family of churches, is **broadcasting all its services** through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

While its pilgrimage activities are shut down, the national Catholic shrine in **Walsingham** is running a **comprehensive 24/7 live streaming schedule**. With three masses a day, the online diary includes talks, readings, exposition, Benediction, Morning Prayer, Vespers, Rosary, Compline and meditation. During its historic celebration for the **Dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary** on 29 March, more than half a million people participated online.

Revd Marcus Walker, vicar of **St Bartholomew the Great** in the city of London is offering broadcasts including **virtual Evensongs and Eucharists** with a reduced choir.

Rowheath Pavilion Church, a church based in a sports pavilion near Birmingham, is reaching out to its community with **services held online via Facebook Live** and has seen a huge surge in attendance.

Alone Together is an online **guide to isolation and social distancing** from 'those who know' - monks, nuns and others. With a collection of videos and other resources, it was curated in response to the Coronavirus pandemic by **CTVC**.

On Easter day, Mass will be said by **Cardinal Vincent Nichols** at 8am and broadcast via the BBC's 39 local radio stations. Meanwhile, **Archbishop Justin Welby** will lead a service at 8.10am on BBC Radio 4, also livestreamed via the **C of E's Facebook page**.

[Click to view this section online](#)

Picture courtesy of [Cormac Corcoran](#)



In this twenty minute conversation, **Cardinal Vincent Nichols**, **Archbishop Justin Welby** and **Chief Rabbi Mirvis** chat about the radical changes brought by the Covid-19 crisis. They see that it is prompting us to reconfigure what we mean by community, and they see that with closure of places of worship has brought unexpected benefits - that every one of our homes now needs to become a House of God.



Recommended books and reviews

Our latest list of books

Finding Sanctuary: Monastic steps for Everyday Life

Father Christopher Jamison OSB

Science and the Good: The Tragic Quest for the Foundations of Morality

James Davison Hunter and Paul Nedelisky

[Vexed: Ethics Beyond Political Tribes](#) (also see this [blog](#))

James Mumford

[The Revolt of the Elites and the Betrayal of Democracy](#)

Christopher Lasch

[Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism](#)

Anne Case and **Angus Deaton**

[Remaking One Nation: The Future of Conservatism](#) (also see this [article](#))

Nick Timothy

[The Left Case for Brexit: Reflections on the Current Crisis](#)

Richard Tuck

Maurice Glasman [reviews](#) the latest book by **Rabbi Jonathan Sacks**

You may also be interested in our

- [Leading Thinkers](#) collection of articles
- [Section](#) on Catholic social teaching
- [Previous reading lists](#)

What is the Common Good?

The Common Good is the **shared life** of a society in which everyone can flourish - as we act together in different ways that all contribute towards that goal, enabled by social conditions that mean every single person can participate.

We create these conditions and pursue that goal by working together across our differences, each of us taking responsibility, according to our calling and ability.

[Learn more](#)

ABOUT T4CG

Together for the Common Good helps people across the churches play their part to strengthen the bonds of social trust.

We do this through Common Good resources, training and events. Everything we do is in partnership, boosted by help in kind and the *pro bono* support of our wonderful associates and volunteers.

Without regular donors we cannot plan ahead.

Would you join us and make a regular donation of £10, £20 or £50 per month?

Please click [here](#) to lend your support or [get in touch](#) to discuss.

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About us

Together for the Common Good is a charity working to strengthen the bonds of social trust. Our work calls people to fulfil their vocational responsibility by putting Common Good principles into practice and by working with others of different opinions and backgrounds in shared purpose.

T4CG partners with people across the churches and offers resources, training and events. We are non partisan, independent, ecumenical in character and proud of our different Christian traditions.

Our People

Team: Jenny Sinclair (Founder Director), Alison Gelder (Director of Operations, p/t)

Louise Lambert (Team Support Worker, p/t)

Board of Trustees: Richard Holman (Treasurer and Acting Chair)

Catherine Brady (Director of Resource Development, *pro bono*)

Geoff Knott, Holly Terry (Company Secretary), Edward Hadas (to be appointed shortly)

T4CG punches above its weight thanks to help-in-kind and our wonderful Associates, Volunteers and Working Groups who contribute on a pro bono basis to different strands of our work, too many to name here. We'd like to thank in particular Fiona Foreman, Catherine Brady, Nicholas Townsend, Annette McBride, Miriam Brittenden.

Our sincere thanks

We are most grateful to our regular donors for their faithful generosity.

The Sisters of Mercy kindly allow us to use free office space.

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CCLA has generously sponsored the design and build of our smart new website.



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