

# APRIL 2020

## BRICKNELL TIMES

*Dear Friends*

*I find myself writing this letter under very unusual circumstances. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic all church services and activities on the premises have been suspended until further notice. However while our building might be closed, the church remains very much open as we continue our discipleship as a dispersed community. Many of you may be feeling concerned or anxious at this time and understandably so. Yet I find it remarkable that in the Bible we are told to not be afraid on 365 occasions; God is clearly trying to tell us something! This lack of fear is not rooted in the notion that terrible things won't happen to us. Instead, it is rooted in the promise of God; that he will never leave us and never abandon us. As St Paul writes in his letter to the Romans: **“for I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8: 38-39).***

*This idea that God's love is constantly present, even in the most difficult of circumstances, can repeatedly be found in the Hebrew scriptures. In Psalm 136 the author declares “O give thanks to the lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever” Psalm 136: 1. The writer continues to repeat this over and over again to emphasize the point! I am convinced that this message of God's enduring and steadfast love, is something we need to hear in our present circumstances. We need to remember that God will not abandon us in our time of need, we are given that God will always keep his promises. As the season of Lent draws to a close and we enter Holy Week, we are given the opportunity to reflect what Jesus' death and resurrection means to us: That in Christ God saves and rescue us “For God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” John 3; 16. This is the promise that God will always keep.*

*So, this Lent and Easter season I invite you to hold onto the promise of God, of a love that will never leave us and that, through all things, God is with us*

*Rev David Speirs*