

## FOCUS ON FRIENDS IN THE CRISIS

Apart from spells when she was working abroad, **Alison Leggatt** has worshipped at St Luke's since 1972. She sings in the church choir (and others!) is part of the Listening Ministry and is known and loved for her humility and the way she notices and makes people feel special.

**Jim Kinsella** has worshipped at St Thomas' for over 40 years and is a churchwarden extraordinaire. We know him for his great ability to connect with people of all backgrounds, and, amongst other things, his lovely singing, green fingers and artistry.

**Alison** and **Jim** were asked these questions about lockdown:

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST GRATEFUL FOR AT THIS TIME?

#### **Alison**

Being able to ring people when we're separated from each other. If that helps and supports them, I am very glad I'm able to do that.

I'm grateful that people I know so far are virus free and that my friends Elizabeth Masson and Val May didn't have to go through this difficult time.

I'm grateful for spring, sunshine, quiet roads, less litter, cleaner air.

I'm grateful that I'm not cooped up in a tower block with no space.

Although I know some won't understand this, I'm glad I'm not involved with social media.

I am never bored, but content and that's something to be grateful for.

I'm thankful for the NHS and for care workers and support staff and that I know where my next meal is coming from.

I'm thankful that on the whole our politicians have worked together for the common good rather than using the crisis to score party political points.

I'm also glad that the lull in sports news means we're not hearing about overpaid footballers every day!

#### **Jim**

What I'm most grateful for at this time of isolation is that I have time to slow down, look around me and see the beauty of the world.

I am so thankful to have a home and garden which so many people have not.

And although we have not got our churches to meet in and celebrate together we seem to have grown closer together through our online prayers and services. For all this I am thankful.

## WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF?

### **Alison**

I'm not sure I have learned much. I guess I'm surprised at how easily I've got used to not pushing myself. I have also learned I can master the technology to join the live services via the phone.

### **Jim**

I want you to know that myself and Sheila are coping so well with lock down. My only regret is we are unable to help in the way that we are used to doing. Helping others was what we loved to do and those we helped, helped us in so many ways. They made us feel alive and gave us a purpose in life. But now that is being rewarded with the help and love we are getting from our church and community.

Although I am one of those people who fall into the category of being at risk, I feel a little frustrated at not being able to be out there helping in some way as it is my nature. But I'm doing as my family tell me - that I must stay isolated for as long as necessary

## WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE WITH OTHERS?

### **Alison**

I am anxious about how the world will pick itself up after this and about the gap between rich and poor. I believe the environment is being given an opportunity through this to repair itself.

Maybe God is giving us an opportunity to slow down, notice what really matters and learn how to look after our planet better.

I am sad that everything on our news is seen through the eyes of people living in Europe and America. It would be good to hear more about people whose needs are very different from our own.

### **Jim**

We will be able, with God's blessings, to come out of isolating and do what we love - being part of a warm and beautiful church and Benefice where we feel the love of God.

*Thank you, Alison and Jim for sharing with us.*

*If YOU would like to answer these questions in weeks to come, let me know.*

*Revd Liz 07922587263*