

Isolation Activities!

by Kathy Morrison

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Having had my daughter and grandson (aged 3 in July this year) isolating with me for the past eight weeks, I've felt so blessed by the many shared, happy times we've had... and exhausted at other times! The study waits just as patiently for a tidy as it has done for months – no, years; those books I always meant to read but never found the time for have gathered yet more dust. No time for contemplation, but we have not stopped. I have been greeted every morning by a small person, arms wind-milling and jumping around with the exuberance of a Spring lamb: 'Wake up Nana, it's another lovely day!' And indeed, it has been. With the help of Leo's imagination, we have been firemen as we pressure washed the decking, ambulance drivers as we rescued people stuck in the mud in their London taxi (his favourite car). We have enjoyed picnics on the grass and Leo has startled fellow isolators with his shrieks of delighted terror as we went on bear hunts along the canal; a great sticky mess was made as we created delicious, if oddly-shaped scones and buns ...and bowls of porridge just in case the three bears should happen by one day.



We have cheered the progress of Spring since the earliest glimpses of blossom turned into the most glorious display; marvelled at the energy of the runner bean seeds as they burst out of their pods and now race one another upwards towards the light. Being present in the moment with Leo as he watched intently as the bees visited the flowers, legs heavy with pollen, and sharing his delight at discovering the pattern on an empty snail shell have been precious times to treasure, and wonder, and give thanks for the glory, colour, the sheer splendour and extravagance of God's creation.

I've appreciated all the contributions made by others on the website and tried to keep up with some of the many resources offered on line for prayer and worship. I found the following prayer sums up much of what I want to pray. It is written by Tim Baker for 'The Vine at Home' a resource produced by *twelvebaskets*. It is inspired by Matt Redman's hymn 'Bless the Lord O my soul' – a song that instantly takes me back to my time in India a few years ago. It was the



song we sang – a group of 12 of us – when we visited Purulia Leprosy Hospital and other venues in West Bengal where The Leprosy Mission works. They welcome our prayers and continue to remember our churches in prayer.

The words remind me of '*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness O God*' (Lamentations 3:22-23). God's promises never fail, God's steadfast love is never exhausted. We can put all our hope in God for God hears our prayers, even when we can't find the words or can only whisper them at times. God is with us, God is for us. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Prayer by Tim Baker from 'The Vine at Home', *twelvebaskets*:

We sing our praise to you, O God, whether we can sing in tune or whether we are pleased no one from church can hear us right now.

We sing our praise to you, O God, whether we sing alone or as a large household.

We sing our praise to you, O God, whether we pronounce the words out loud or hum the tune in our heads.

We come to you, singing our praises, despite all the challenges and uncertainties we face.

We come to you, singing our praises, and holding our emotions, our anger, our fear and our tiredness before you.

We come to you, sharing moments of joy and happiness from the week just gone, grateful for the blessings we have received.

We sing our praise, O God, wherever and however we find ourselves this day.

We sing, like never before.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

We worship your holy name.

Amen.