

NEWSLETTER  
EXTRAORDINARY EDITION  
VOLUME 6



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever does.  
(Margaret Mead)



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Week after week, we can take on the biggest issues we face as a society — from continuing racism, mass incarceration, inequality and poverty to gender violence and human trafficking, climate change — and just try to be hopeful.

Or we can start by going deeper, to a more foundational and spiritual understanding of hope — rooted in our identity as the children of God, made in the image of God, as the only thing that will see us through times like this.

I believe we should start there. Because the biggest problem we face — the biggest enemy at the heart of many of the issues — is hopelessness.

And perhaps the most important thing the world needs from the faith community today is hope.



I believe that hope isn't a feeling, a mood, or a personality type. Rather, hope is a decision, a choice we make because of this thing we call faith.

Hope is our vocation and our identity as the people of God. Let's put it this way — when we confront the depth of things we address we must also understand our role. I am convinced now that hope is our job as people of faith.

Hope is our job.

Hope is the particular thing the people of God need to provide, and is the most important thing that every movement for change needs.

Jim Wallis



St AUGUSTINE

"Love cannot bind people together if no one learns anything from anyone else."



## SUMMER TEA BOXES



Undaunted by the cancellation of the annual fundraising garden party for our sisters in Africa, we turned to the delivery of scrumptious Tea boxes. Ideal for gatherings in the garden which had become permissible after months of lockdown. The production of about 100 Tea boxes was masterminded by the ever creative Clayton family whose home-made lemon drizzle cake 'was to die for'!!

This enabled so many happy reunions in gardens across the CM postcode area, hand delivered by a willing and able group of volunteers.

The final total raised was just in excess of £4000.

A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in any way or who made donations. But very special thanks to Gary and Jenny, Evelyn, Timothy, and all their family.

## 2020 – OUR WORLD REIMAGINED

Starting in September we are hosting both virtual and 'real' small group meetings to look at a variety of aspects of Life after Lockdown. Who have been the winners and losers? How has the pandemic affected my awareness of God? What will church look like now? And what about our retail habits? Our schools?

RECONSTRUCT REMAKE  
RECYCLE REJUVENATE  
REVAMP REDESIGN RENOVATE  
**REIMAGINE**  
RETHINK REUSE RECREATE  
REFURBISH RESTORE RENEW  
REMODEL REDO REVISE

So many questions we all have – and this will be an opportunity to reflect and share those questions. We will be putting stimulus materials on the website and inviting you to one or many of the sessions, as you choose.

<https://canonesses.co.uk/2020-our-world-reimagined/>

## AND MORE BOXES

This time Fun Boxes to help families through the long summer weeks since March.

In Melbourne we delivered 28 boxes to local families known to us and these were assembled by volunteers and friends on two dates during the holiday.



"Chenai loved her box ..... thank you so much, it made her have a smile on her face."



## PRAY WITH US



You may not be aware that since April we have been sending out an Evening Prayer daily to around 60 people. If you would like to join that group please do email us and we will add you to the circulation list.

**WISDOM IN A TIME OF CRISIS -  
Richard Rohr**



The word *change* normally refers to new beginnings. But the mystery of transformation more often happens not when something new begins, but when something old falls apart. The pain of something old falling apart—chaos—invites the soul to listen at a deeper level, and sometimes forces the soul to go to a new place. Most of us would never go to new places in any other way.

We will normally do *anything* to keep the old thing from falling apart, yet this is when we need patience and guidance, and the *freedom* to let go instead of tightening our controls and certitudes.

In moments of insecurity and crisis, *shoulds* and *oughts* don't really help. They just increase the shame, guilt, pressure, and likelihood of backsliding into unhealthy patterns. It's the deep *yeses* that carry us through to the other side. It's that deeper something we are strongly *for*—such as *equality and dignity for all*—that allows us to wait it out. In plain language, love wins out over guilt any day.

**AND FINALLY LET'S END WITH A SMILE!**



Kids returning to school after Corona.



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