

# Devotional Blog

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

“You can’t turn the clock back” is a phrase that is often used when remembering “the good old days”. But with our country in lockdown it would appear that in some ways it is like turning the clock back.

For sports fans that is definitely the case. For example, last Sunday would have witnessed the spectacle of the London Marathon. The BBC usually cover the event live and in full. So, as there wasn’t any live action the Beeb showed a re-run of the 1<sup>st</sup> time the event was stage 29<sup>th</sup> March 1981. Many other old sporting events are being dusted off, so that fans can re-live the moments from bygone days.

The clocks seemed to have been turned back in many neighbourhoods as well. All of a sudden, we have time for each other again. As I look out of the window there are two ladies from my road chatting (at a socially acceptable distance). I guess they are sharing news of how each other’s households are coping with the current situation. There is also a great deal of sharing and helping each other out, going on at the moment. Excess plants have been offered around, and if anyone has a much-coveted on-line shopping slot there is the opportunity to add anything you might need to it. Like many neighbourhoods a “WhatsApp” group has been set up as an additional aid to be able to offer help and support to each other. We have also engaged in a community sing-song following our show of appreciation for our key workers, on Thursday evenings. All this has reminded me of my early childhood, in the late 50’s and early 60’s when there was a similar sense of neighbourliness. Maybe in some senses we have turned the clock back and discovered that people really matter. Let’s hope this re-kindled sense of community is back to stay.

The Christian Church also needs to remind itself of a bygone era. In Acts 2:42-47 we read about the early church. Verse 44 states that early believers “had everything in common”. This did not mean that they all had the same interests. Translated into the 21<sup>st</sup> century it does not mean we all watch Coronation Street or support Spurs!! What this verse is really saying is that all their possessions were available for everyone to use, if the need arose.

This is further emphasised in Act4:32-37, where we read that the believers were of one heart and mind. They were united in the need to share the “Good News” that Jesus had risen from the grave, He had taken the sins of the world on His shoulders and conquered death.

As John3:16 states “For God so loved the world That He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life”.

This was the message that united the first Christians and it should unite us today. May we all be of one heart and mind in this mission, to share the gospel.

We can learn from the past and look to the future, but we must live and act in the present, united in our quest to make Jesus better known in our neighbourhoods.

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