



## YMCA Wimbledon Chaplaincy

with Jonathan

**PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A WEEKLY CHAPLAINCY SHEET OR TO SPEAK TO THE TEAM**

**Hi everyone,**

I came across this last week which I thought spoke a lot of sense. A poem by Brother Richard that's gone viral.

### Lockdown

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death.  
But,  
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
But blue and grey and clear.  
They say that in the streets of Assisi  
People are singing to each other  
across the empty squares,  
keeping their windows open  
so that those who are alone  
may hear the sounds of family around them.  
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
Today a young woman I know  
is busy spreading fliers with her number  
through the neighbourhood  
So that the elders may have someone to call on.  
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
are preparing to welcome  
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality  
To how big we really are.  
To how little control we really have.  
To what really matters.  
To Love.  
So we pray and we remember that  
Yes there is fear.  
But there does not have to be hate.  
Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness.  
But there does not have to be disease of the soul  
Yes there is even death.  
But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing,  
Spring is coming,  
And we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square,  
Sing.

**Poem by Brother Richard**

### Did you know ...



During World War I, the YMCA got specially-trained bulldogs to carry cartons of cigarettes to nervous soldiers across war-torn Europe. [YMCA Dog Carrying Cigarettes WW1](#)

### A Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you  
May the Lord smile on you  
Shine his light upon you  
May the Lord lift you  
Turn his face towards you  
And give you his Peace  
Amen

## Chaplaincy Team Prayers Every Thursday

The Chaplaincy team would like to invite you to join Nicki Thursday morning at 9.30am on the Youtube link below to pray, reflect during the Live Stream.

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpgyz3\\_H1-JWEzpbNkWTUNw/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpgyz3_H1-JWEzpbNkWTUNw/videos)**

We'll begin with a reflection and then spend some minutes or so praying through any requests she has received (no names) - last week a few people couldn't tune into the video as they went into youtube through the VPN - you will need to go straight from chrome/safari/firefox etc. - Sorry for the glitches. Email requests to NickiSudworth@ymcaspg.org or text 07894 690112

### **Chaplaincy Contact Details**

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YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

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