

In the first Lockdown, we had to rethink what it means to follow the two great commandments... to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves

We found different ways to pray, to discern God's calling. We expressed our love for others in new kinds of acts of service.

A week or so ago – I read a re-written version of the original Beatitudes spoken by Jesus and recorded in Matthew 5 – beatitudes spoken by an elderly person. Today I have another re-written version – reflecting on what we have experienced in the first Covid-19 lockdown and needed again in this one.

This version of the Beatitudes is from the Blog of a Church of England Ordinand, who writes under the name of Womanfredi. Her blog is at: <https://thewomanfredi.blogspot.com/>

Beatitudes for a global pandemic.

Blessed are those who stay indoors for they have protected others.

Blessed are the unemployed and the self-employed, for their need of God is great. Blessed are the corner shopkeepers, for they are the purveyors of scarce things. Blessed are the delivery drivers and the postal workers, for they are the bringers of essential things.

Blessed are the hospital workers; the ambulance crews, the doctors, the nurses, the care assistants, and the cleaners, for they stand between us and the grave, and the Kingdom of Heaven is surely theirs.

Blessed are the checkout workers, for they have patience and fortitude in the face of overwork and frustration.

Blessed are the refuse collectors, for they will see God despite the mountains of waste.

Blessed are the teachers, for they remain steadfast and constant in disturbing times.

Blessed are the church workers; the deacons, priests and bishops, for they are a comforting presence in a hurting world as they continue to signpost towards God. Blessed are the single parents, for they are coping alone with their responsibilities and there is no respite.

Blessed are those who are alone, for they are children of God and with Him they will never be lonely.

Blessed are the bereaved, for whom the worst has already happened. They shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who are isolated with their abusers, for one day – we pray - they will know safety.

Blessed are all during this time who have pure hearts; all who still hunger and thirst for justice; all who work for peace and who model mercy.

May you know comfort. May you know calm.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.