

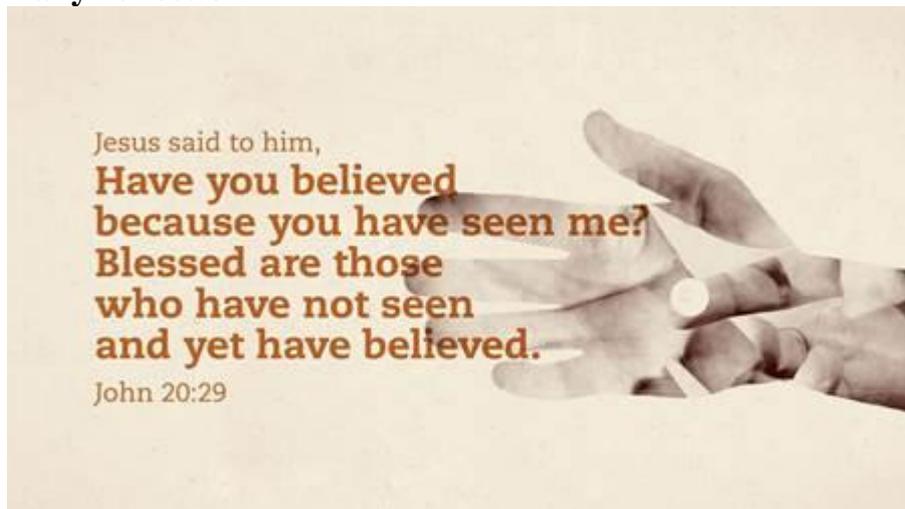
Dear Ipswich City Church Family

Thanks for all the encouraging words about the church services over the weekend. There has been lots of positive feedback. I think the Chook and her chicks were a particular highlight for many. It is great to see new life in such a tangible way.

### **Prayer**

Perhaps today you may like to pray for medical academics and researchers. It is their knowledge, courage and guidance which has kept many of us safe and "flattened the curve".

### **Daily reflection**



### **Trust is the currency of life.**

*"Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.""* (John 20:29, NRSV)

One person I know personally has died from Corona virus. Several well-known people have died including Tim Brooke Taylor who as one of the Goodies was a big part of my childhood. However, no-one in my immediate circle has either died or even been infected. A lot of people are like me. They have not seen the virus firsthand. Because of this some people are arguing that the virus isn't that bad. We should relax the social distancing, they argue. Perhaps they are some of the ones who have gone to the beach or broken the rules in other ways.

It is tempting to think this way. It doesn't affect me; I haven't seen or experienced it, perhaps it's not that big an issue. At this point we need to trust in something we cannot see at all. We must trust in the knowledge and experience of medical professionals and academics who have experienced, studied, and researched this virus and the history of contagious disease. Most

of us cannot, see, experience or even understand a lot of this. But this knowledge and experience of others is what is keeping us safe and preserving our nation.

The story of Thomas and almost all believers who have followed is quite like this. Like Thomas there are some people who simply will not believe the virus is real or that the expert advice about isolation and hand washing etc. is right. Like Thomas some of these people may unfortunately find out firsthand that they are wrong. Some people are like all the believers who have followed Thomas. We have not seen or experienced the virus or its effects firsthand, yet we trust and believe in those who have and so we are kept safe because of them. We are blessed because we have believed even though we have not seen.

*Lord, thank-you for witnesses and thinkers, researchers, theologians, scientists and historians! Thank-you for the gift of faith and that you have given all people the capacity to trust in others. Give us the wisdom to trust in that which is good and the courage to ask others to do the same. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

**Rev. Andrew Gillies**