

Easter message from CEO



Dear friend of the Good Shepherd Trust (GST),

We walk through very strange times at the moment, the things that our world relied upon seem to have evaporated away: transport, leisure, travel, work. We cannot even meet with each other as we continue to apply 'social distancing' to our lives. In tough times, we long for some hope that this will end.

St Paul talks of hope in the letter to the Romans 5:3-4 and he finds hope through tough times: "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

Through his time of suffering, he endured. This endurance produced character. His character produced hope.

In these times of great challenge and despair, we have great hope. We are relying on our public services, particularly our NHS, but also our schools and our social communities that are coming together to support those who may be vulnerable. Just as St Paul wrote, we see suffering, but this leads to endurance, character and hope. We have seen the best in our communities, shown in our schools who have continued to offer care for those who need it most. You have all – school leaders, teachers, support staff, pupils and parents -shown our country what endurance, character and hope look like.

A special thank you to the staff at GST: thank you for displaying the very best of collaborative working, the highest standard of leadership and living the core values of our trust. Thank you for supporting each other including those who, for a range of reason are not able to be in school. Thank you particularly to Headteachers for understanding the individual needs and concerns of each member of your team and for being so responsive, supportive and flexible in enabling staff to balance the work/life challenges we are all facing at this time.

Christians see Easter as the time of greatest hope. We look forward to a day of rebirth, of renewal, where all these things will pass, and we will have great joy with God. It is described in Revelation 21 – "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

So finally, I do hope for an end to this situation, but I also hope that every one of you is, and stays, safe and well. Thank you for all that you have and continue to do in these challenging times.

With my best wishes for a very happy Easter,

Paul Kennedy  
CEO Good Shepherd Trust