

# Resources for Churches...

## Responding to the Coronavirus

### The Rollercoaster



It's strange how we suddenly develop a new vocabulary as times change.  
How unthought-of words take on a new, ominous significance - distancing ... lockdown ... rollercoaster.

When you grow up in Blackpool you know all about rollercoasters.  
'Up and down trains' the four year old me used to call them.  
We would hear them from our classroom and watch them from the playground:  
the slow grind of the uphill struggle;  
the lurch and whoosh of steep descent;  
the screams of excitement - or was it terror?  
the unstoppable momentum of hump after hump and trough after trough.  
All with childlike obliviousness to  
the silent apprehension;  
the concern for companions;  
the white-knuckled grip  
and whether people emerged elated or traumatised at the end.

We could see from our safe distance that everything was relative.  
That the Roller Coaster was tame compared to the taller, more daunting Big Dipper.  
And in later life they would both pale into insignificance beside The Big One - the tallest, fastest, scariest in the UK.  
'An experience like no other!' according to the publicity.

So now we are on our own rollercoaster - but not any old up and down train.  
The Big One. An experience like no other. Disorienting, terrifying, and seemingly unending.  
Unprecedented, so they say.  
So it is no wonder we have worries of what today might bring  
and that we have concerns of whether our loved ones will be ok.  
We all face that not knowing what will happen next;  
that lurch in our tummies at sudden shocks;  
that being carried along by something beyond our control;  
and a recurrent fervent wish we were somewhere else.

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## ...continued

But this will end.  
Our worst fears will not be the reality.  
We are being held by something that is safe and secure.

So how do we get through?  
By saying a prayer.  
Breathing deeply.  
Staying calm.  
Encouraging others.  
Knowing that we're all in it together.  
Hanging on tight through the worst bits.  
Learning to take each trough one at a time.  
Trusting that all will be well.  
And daring to hope that parts of it may actually be fun!

Rollercoasters.  
They never seemed too daunting when watched from afar.  
Have I ever been on one myself?  
Not until today!

