

**Merton Priory Team -Thoughts  
from Home**

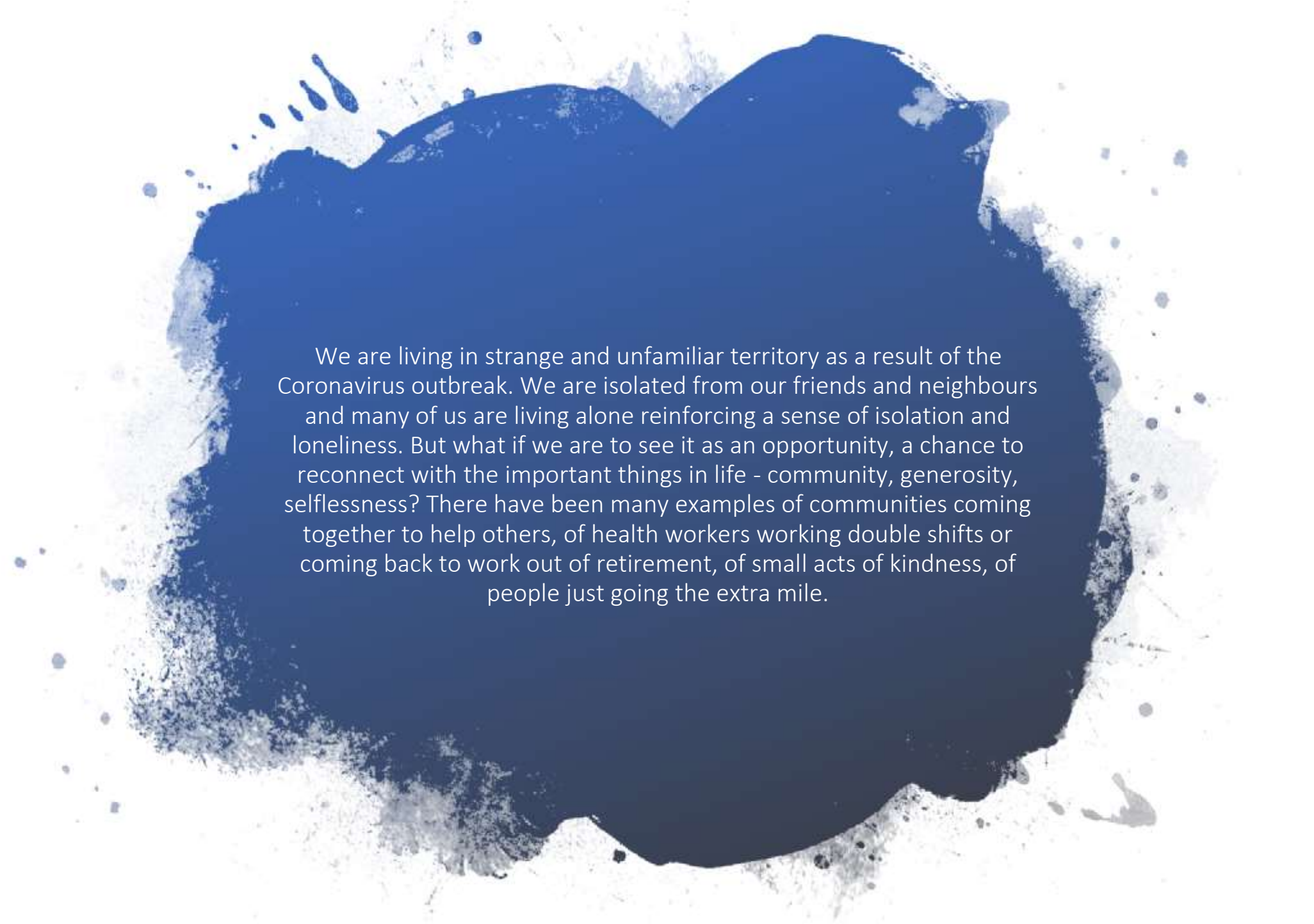
**“Wilderness times”**

**Nicky Morgan**

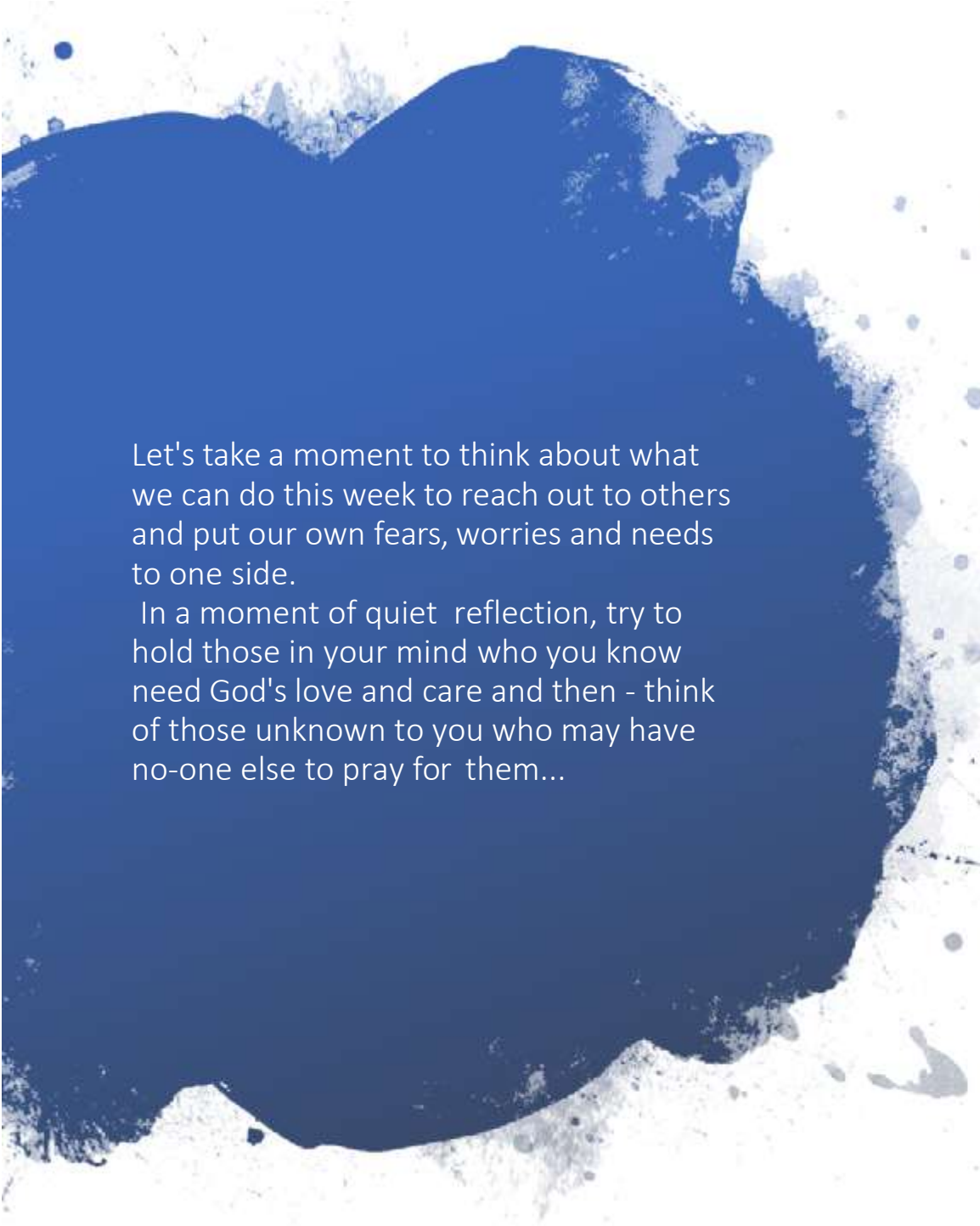


# Luke 3:4 and 4:1

- A voice of one calling in the wilderness – prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him
- Let's take a moment to reflect on this verse. Have we stopped to really listen to God's voice? What can we do to prepare his way and make a straight path?
- Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness
- Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit where he was alone for forty days and nights. Are we experiencing just a little of that isolation at the moment? Was Jesus led willingly and are we?

A large, dark, irregular shape resembling a splash or a hole in paper, centered on a white background. The shape has a rough, textured edge and contains a block of text in a light blue-grey color. The text is centered within the shape and discusses the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak and the potential for community support.

We are living in strange and unfamiliar territory as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak. We are isolated from our friends and neighbours and many of us are living alone reinforcing a sense of isolation and loneliness. But what if we are to see it as an opportunity, a chance to reconnect with the important things in life - community, generosity, selflessness? There have been many examples of communities coming together to help others, of health workers working double shifts or coming back to work out of retirement, of small acts of kindness, of people just going the extra mile.



Let's take a moment to think about what we can do this week to reach out to others and put our own fears, worries and needs to one side.

In a moment of quiet reflection, try to hold those in your mind who you know need God's love and care and then - think of those unknown to you who may have no-one else to pray for them...

As we say the words of the grace together, we normally look into the faces of those we are praying with to show our genuine care of and presence with them.

Although we are not together, let us still say aloud those words and hold each other in our prayers.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Be with us all evermore

Amen