

Reflection for Friday 5th June 2020

We are hearing a lot about Track and Tracing through an App on our mobile phones. This is a new stage for the use of technology opening up, potentially, for good, as people are trying to get on top of isolating and treating the



Coronavirus

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On the downside of technology, people are warned about putting personal information on to social media sites for tracking for the wrong reasons. Apart from the safeguarding dangers especially for young people, older people can be victims of identity fraud. Personal emails can be hacked and passwords have to be changed.

Just as no one has your mobile number except you, no one has your whole identity, your identikit, but you. As soon as a baby is born, a name band is placed on their ankle, with the surname, even if they as yet have no forename. As soon as possible and certainly after leaving the hospital, a parent must register the baby's birth at the Registry for births, marriages and deaths. If someone is not registered, they are not considered to have legal status in this country. This has all kinds of implications for citizenship and remaining in the UK, about which there are often news headlines.....

Every person needs to be registered with a GP to have free healthcare. Each and every one of us has our own National Health Service No. We also have our own National Insurance No, which is mandatory for tax coding, when working or making claims for allowances etc.

As you get older, the data about you grows. When you complete applications for training or work, you are usually required to add your addresses from the last 5 years. Then qualifications, voluntary work, jobs and courses will form a key part of what's called 'profiling' and makes us uniquely, individually, who we are and gives us our identity, which starts with our name.



There are approximately 100 Bible Verses about God knowing our name, including **Isaiah 43:1** “**But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine”**”. In the first sixteen verses of chapter one of the Gospel of Matthew, we trace Jesus Christ’s ancestry, to Joseph and Mary and the human family that raised him and gave him the name Jesus, according to the angel of the Lord, visiting Joseph, as recorded in **verse 21: “Mary will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus”**.

We are all part of the same family of humanity. By nature of this fact, if we choose to acknowledge it, we are also part of God’s Family. It’s our choice if we decide to track and trace what it means to be children of God. It’s not forced on us. I was so struck by the television programme earlier this week ‘Long Lost Family’, which followed four people tracing their identity. They had all been abandoned soon after birth. They didn’t know their names, their parents or indeed anything about their identity, apart from the families where they were adopted. It was their unique DNA that enabled the tracking to be done. We each have God’s DNA. We all have a place in God’s family and a purpose and a plan for our lives. We have a God-given identity.



Moses was abandoned as a baby, because his mother wanted to save him from being killed by the decree of the king of Egypt aka Pharaoh. (Exodus chapter 2). He was fearful of the growth of the Israelites, despite oppressing and

committing them to forced labour. Hence he declared “Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile”. Moses’s Mother prepared a basket to place him in the River Nile, when she felt sure he would be discovered and saved. The happy outcome was that Pharaoh’s daughter needed to find someone to nurse him and Moses’s sister was waiting for the opportunity to suggest, hers and Moses’s very own Mother.



Moses had his ups and downs and much of that came back to his identity and his confidence in not only who he thought he was, but doubting who God believed he could be.

We have this assurance from Jesus Christ himself in the Gospel of John chapter 1 verse “to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God....born of God”.

In God’s family we are saved to be with him always, both in this life and in the next. What we need to do is to acknowledge our need of God, asking him to forgive and accept us and to realise he cherishes us as a perfect parent with unconditional love.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 1: 11 “Through our union with Christ we too have been claimed by God as his own inheritance. Before we were even born, he gave us our destiny; that we would fulfill the plan of God who always accomplishes every purpose and plan in his heart”.

Our track and trace gives us identity with the Living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit from before we were born...our name is known by him and his love is everlasting.

O heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life we may never forget thee, but remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; for thine own name’s sake (Book of Common Prayer).