

Because Brexit

This month, theoretically, sees the UK leaving the EU. Brexit has rumbled on after the original vote into a maze of negotiation and battle. As I write this it isn't clear if we'll go with the deal currently available, find a new deal, delay leaving, have further public votes, or other possibilities I can't yet imagine. Some MPs, including my own (Heidi Allen) have resigned from their parties. Others have formed gangs within parties.

I want to keep saying at least two things.

Theologically, I believe our withdrawal from the EU is one of the great tragedies of my lifetime. I believe that nation states are very human

inventions rather than the map-work of God. We've shaped them from the ambiguities of history, the random realities of natural resources, wars, the movements of peoples and cultures and languages across the globe for thousands upon thousands of years. More of God, I think, come our efforts to build bridges across our divisions, to seek cooperation and collaboration, to belong to one another as a human family. The EU isn't perfect. But it speaks to me of something closer to God's hopes than our removal.

I know how hard these years have been for some in our community



because you have travelled, leaving much behind, to enter so fully into our life from other countries. You bring treasures because you bring yourselves and all your storied lives. And some have told me of the increased abuse and inhospitality you have met in the UK, ramped up post-referendum.

Westminster is blessed to have you here. I am more proud than I can say to work alongside you all. As this month brings what it may bring, please hear how much you are valued amongst us.

"We so often think of the world as divided into countries and peoples, but when you look at the planet from space you don't notice borders or the divisions of continents. The only divisions we see are those crafted by nature, 4.5 billion years in the making."

Tim Peake

(186 days on the International Space Station in 2016)

Loving our neighbours as we love ourselves



Looking after ourselves matters. Recently, we've been looking into ways we can enhance the life of the whole college community. We've already got the Art Studio as a space for creativity. We're beginning to explore ways in which it can also be a space for stillness and meditation to complement the prayerful space our Chapel offers. Both can be

places to be used by any of us. Stopping for breaks together such as morning coffee can be a time simply to step away and catch our breath. We plan to create a good outdoor seating area near the studio for people to enjoy. For some of us, walking the Labyrinth is a wonder. We've added mental health training into our resources. And we work hard to notice and to demonstrate through cards and gifts and prayers our care as those within and dear to the college go through hard times. We are fragile. Life can take much. Let us, therefore, take care together.

