Vicar and Gurate's Musings

and any other information we found interesting, funny or a need to share!

Curate's Musings

As I write this, the sun is beating down on our patio and I've retreated to the gloom inside – not only because of the heat and brightness but because there's a large tanker parked in the road, which is emptying a septic tank. The smell is appalling. If you are in the village at this moment, you may have the benefit as it wafts about the shops and the Green

This morning, I passed a council worker emptying, and refreshing with clean bags, the dog poo bins in the road. I felt sorry for him, having to do that un-fragrant job on a hot day – but even <u>he</u> had it easy compared with the septic tank operative.

I apologise for mentioning such unsavoury subjects, but they've made me ponder how hard it is to imagine ourselves into the lives of others. What is the peak of enjoyment for one might be hateful for another. I remember having a chat with a very keen, competent skier, who couldn't understand my lack of enthusiasm for what was to him a wildly exciting fortnight, sharing a chalet with 12 other talented skiers. I asked him if he'd like to come with me on a choral singing course, with cathedral Evensong every day, rather basic accommodation and robust rules for 'lights out'. We agreed to differ!

There is a long list of occupations at which I would be no good. There's a wide variety I know little about – being a DJ or a neuroscientist or a professional diver.

Then there are all the people who have jobs I can just about understand, but live in such vastly different situations from mine – a nurse in an over-stretched Delhi hospital, a teacher in a Lebanese refugee camp, a priest in a virus-infected Brazilian favela. How can I

empathise with them and treat them as equals?

We tend to live in our own bubbles of somewhat like-minded people – long before 'bubbling' had anything to do with keeping ourselves safe from infection. It's natural and comfortable to socialise or work with compatible folk, whose accents, opinions, habits and lifestyles don't alarm or challenge us. But we know how social media groups can feed off each other's prejudices and partisanship in a very unhealthy way, and I suspect someone wandering into a church service may well think we were speaking our own language, observing rituals and just echoing the practices of others in the group, in a way that mystified – or even repelled - the outsider

How are we to cope with, on the one hand, the huge variety of humanity; on the other, the impossibility of identifying with every individual; and on the third, the command of Christ to love one another, to 'do as you would be done by'? Even among people who live in the same country, under the same laws and with a shared history, recent protests have reminded us how far apart we are from each other, in understanding, in life experiences and viewpoints.

There's the old proverb – claimed by several different authors - 'Before you judge a man, walk a mile in his shoes.' It seems a good place to start, if we're trying to get into the mindset of someone not too far distant from us. We can imagine ourselves into the situation of someone whose life and work coincides to some extent with our own. But what about the ones who are, geographically or socially or emotionally, a million miles away?

Paul, writing to the Colossians, commended a certain outlook, a demeanour and 'clothing' – a way of 'keeping in tune' with one another. Easier said than done! –

But when we try to put ourselves in someone else's shoes, it helps if we $\underline{\text{try}}$ to be

'even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offence..... and cultivate thankfulness.' (Colossians 3 – The Message translation)

I've heard many people in Broadway, during the last few months, saying how thankful they are to live here. And when I saw those two men doing their distasteful work today, I repeated that thankfulness. I don't know where they live, but certainly their work is a million miles away from mine. Our lives are far apart but I applaud them and trust we have something in common and could view each other with humility and respect.

I'm reminded of words in the 'Desiderata':

As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.....

..... The world is full of trickery.
but let this not blind you to what virtue there is;
many persons strive for high ideals;
and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Jo Williamson



How churchy are you?

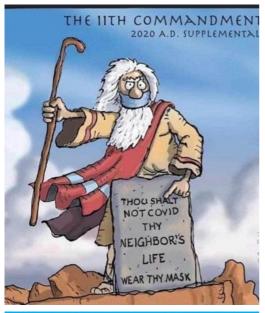
Have you ever?

- 1) Been baptized? \$10
- 2) Spoken in tongues \$10
- 3) Sang in the choir/praise team \$10
- 4) Led a song \$20
- 5) Seen a demon be cast out \$10
- 6) Cast out a demon \$20
- 7) Attended foot washing service \$20
- 8) Taken communion \$10
- 9) Been to 3 services in 1 day \$20
- 10) Praise danced \$10
- 11) Shouted in church \$10
- 12) Attended a convention \$20
- 13) Preached the word \$20
- 14) Been prophesied to \$10
- 15) Been prophesied to correctly \$20
- 16) Attended a revival \$10
- 17) Played instrument in church \$20
- 18) Testified \$10

(im Jimmie Austin - Facebook)

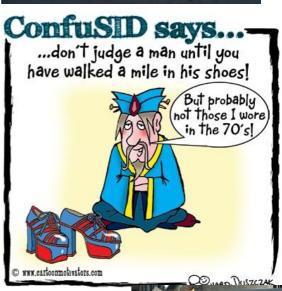






THERE'S A STORY
BEHIND EVERY
PERSON. THERE'S
A REASON WHY
THEY'RE THE WAY
THEY ARE. THINK
ABOUT THAT
BEFORE YOU JUDGE
SOMEONE.
- UNKNOWN.

Life is like a CAMERA. You focus on what's important, capture the **GOOD TIMES,** develop from the negative and if things don't work out TAKE ANOTHER RRHARD SHOT! www.cartoonmotivators.com





THERE ARE 2 KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD:

1) Morning people

2) People who want to shoot morning people.

DespicableMeMinions.org

IF YOU COME INTO THE STORE WITHOUT A MASK WE WILL HAVE TO TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE! P.S. WE ONLY HAVE RECTAL THERMOMETERS! Don't walk out in a huff because they've changed the Communion wine or the time of the morning service, or even because the bishop has said something silly (especially if the bishop has said something silly, which he might well do). Each of us is a gift, to God, to the church, to each other. In our 'must-fit-me-precisely' culture we're used to everything being customized to our needs. But perhaps we're not the defining centre of everything. In which case, with humility, let's stay with God's people and make the church a truer reflection of the character of God.

John Pritchard

Living Faithfully: Following Christ in everyday life

#kindlequotes



Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.



People don't ever think from the other person's perspective. If you did you might understand someone more.

Fair-t is not hoping. Godan it is knowing He W

www.GatherinHisname.com

We Can't Go Back....But We Will, Unless...

by Jayne Ozanne, Editor of Via Media, Director of the <u>Ozanne</u> <u>Foundation</u> and a Member of General Synod

https://viamedia.news/2020/07/18/we-cant-go-back-but-we-will-unless/



"Real power lies in the people!"

Earlier this week I was privileged to hear Archbishop Desmond Tutu say these powerful words during a characteristically direct address ahead of a private screening of an epic new film about Africa, climate change and migration, The Great Green Wall.

He was keen to draw on the words of Thomas Sankara, that set the tone of the film:

"We must dare to invent the future – everything humanity can imagine we can create"

For the last three months on Via Media we have had 24 vastly different and yet uniquely personal blogs from a range of contributors addressing the subject "We Can't Go Back..." They have touched on a truly diverse set of topics from power and inequality to social care and justice, and from topics relating to our buildings to those

relating to our well-being and mental health.

For all their differences, they have each dared to invent a new future, to imagine things as they could be. Indeed, the series itself found its genesis in words spoken by the Archbishop of Canterbury during his Easter Day sermon, televised to the nation from his kitchen at the start of the lockdown, where he shared his own vision of a future filled with resurrection hope, saying:

"After so much suffering, so much heroism from key workers and the NHS, so much effort, once this epidemic is conquered here and round the world, we cannot be content to go back to what was before as if all is normal. There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it because it is the gift of God. Then we must build it in partnership with God."

But the million-dollar question of course is – will things actually *really* change?

Or perhaps more importantly – what will it take to bring about the change so many long for, write for, march for and in some cases, even die for?

I suggest that there are three things that we can each do to help bring about the change we seek. For power truly does "rest with the people" – we just need to understand how much power we have and how it can be harnessed, released and used to transform our Church, and our world.

The first is, we need to pledge to always "call things out". We need to name the elephants in the room. We need to stop admiring the "emperor's new clothes", and instead have the humanity and the decency to tell the emperors that they are in fact naked, that we will not go along with their charades any longer. It takes courage and wisdom, and it requires a tone that is full of love rather than accusation – a balance that is not easy to strike. In essence we need to stop colluding. We need to stop colluding with the lies that have kept us all bound and which have often left us feeling that we have no option but to conform.

What sort of lies?

Well those that say our Church is not rich. We *are* rich. It is just that the money is locked up in ways few can access, and it is this that needs challenging. It is the lies that say we, the Church, are united, when we all know that we are deeply divided and that it is those without power and influence who end up leaving by the back door, with few seeming to notice or care. It is the lies that say we, the Church, have a respected voice in our nation, when in fact few are listening and frankly many no longer care as we lost their respect the moment we started preaching love to them and abjectly failing to show it to some of the most vulnerable in our midst.

The second, which is closely related to the first, is that we need to stop being so deferential. This does not mean that we stop showing respect to people, that is quite a different matter – mutual respect is healthy and essential. However, there is an unhealthy level of deference in our Church that seems to put senior religious leaders on pedestals from which they can only fall. They are human beings just like the rest of us. They bleed, just like the rest of us. They make mistakes, just like the rest of us.

If we are honest, deference can act both ways – it can be as much about people in power expecting it as well as those "in the pews" kowtowing to it. It may well have been an unspoken norm from our past, but it is not the model that Jesus shows us as he interacts with people around him – in fact quite the opposite. The religious leaders of the day may have expected it, but He modelled something quite different – much to their frustration – and the people loved Him for it!

Thirdly, we have to believe in ourselves. "There can be miracles, when you believe.." is not just a song sung by Mariah Carey. It is something we each have to embrace and hold on to. Right now there is so much that could happen, if only there were people willing to step forward and lead change. We are in the midst of a major "reset" — there is a "reboot" that is happening not just in our Church, but in our nation and in the world itself.

Never has there been such an opportune time for people to stand up and say "enough, I want to do things differently!" What is stopping them? Mostly, although I appreciate not always, it is their own levels of self-confidence and sense of self-worth.

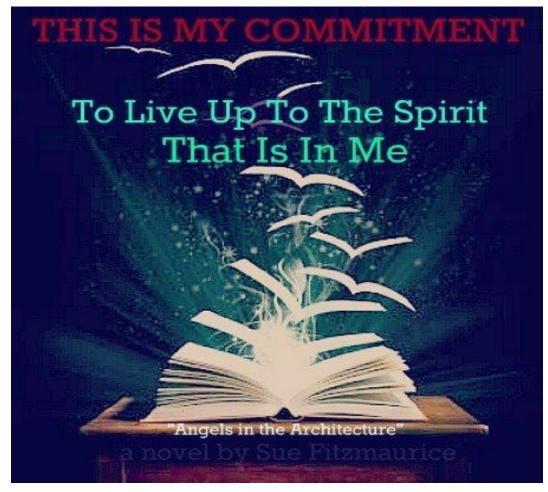
We are the key – we are also the barrier. Change lies with us!

So, in the words of Archbishop Tutu, who closed his address to us with the following challenge:

"Let us not forget the transformative power of hope and imagination – we must dare to invent the future!"

We must "dare", and we must "do" – for real power lies with us!





We Can't Go Back...to Ignoring Those We Do Not See

by the Rt Revd Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

https://viamedia.news/2020/06/23/we-cant-go-back-to-ignoring-those-we-do-not-see/



'You don't belong here' were the words spoken to me on my first Sunday evening as curate. I must say I felt quite affronted, I was nervous enough. It had been quite a journey for me to take to ordination. Brought up within a very conservative non-conformist Christian tradition where I had no role models of women in leadership, I had undertaken much soul-searching and wide-ranging debate to get to this point.

Over the 12 years I spent in that parish, I discovered however what was behind those words. This was a multi-cultural community with white working-class, living alongside changing, mobile and growing immigrant

groups. It was dynamic, colourful and constantly challenging for a new curate like me and I loved it.

Unlike most of the diocesan congregations ours was richly diverse. However the leadership was not. Those of us in leadership put that down to the lack of confidence of our congregational members but it became clear during my ministry there that we had been using that as an excuse for some time. 'Empowering the laity' didn't just mean offering them opportunities to develop but also making space for them. So we set about making some fundamental changes to increase the visibility of those we had overlooked. Long-term middle-class white members of our PCC stepped down to make room for others drawn from our growing black and Asian congregation.

One of the small but significant things we did was to make all our PCC members chalice assistants. A tiny structural change but it meant that immediately we had 6 BAME members up front and visible to the wider congregation. And what we found was that not only did they become visible but we also brought children and young people to the fore with the 2 16 year olds who were serving a year on the PCC. Suddenly more of us could see ourselves mirrored in those participating in visible roles. And it grew confidence, folk could begin to see they had something to contribute.

That 20-year old memory has come to mind again for me in sharp relief as I've reflected on this period of lockdown. Who are those who have remained invisible to me over those years and yet now I am beginning to see once more?

In the early weeks of lockdown, my colleague +Peter met a woman in her wheelchair along his walk. She told him that she had not been able to access church for 4 years or more and yet that week she had been 4 or 5 times. How? Through the digital possibilities of the internet allowing her the freedom to enter into worship and not finding her physical constraints to be an issue. We cannot go back to ignoring those we cannot see!

Last night I visited a local residential care home to thank the carers who have given selflessly during this time of anxiety and fear. They have gone the extra mile to keep our seniors safe and yet often have come second when it comes to PPE, personal pay and conditions, and in feeling society's appreciation. We were told our visit made

them feel valued as they had felt excluded from the clap for carers with the spotlight being on the NHS. Izzy also told us how important the weekly local church's YouTube service had become to their residents. In the past the church had taken the occasional service in the home, but now residents were able to feel part of the regular congregation. We promised that we would seek to continue these acts of worship. We cannot go back to ignoring those we cannot see!

Social care has been underfunded for many years and we have known that. The Dilnot Commission, set up 10 years ago, proposed a range of ways in which we could provide affordable but appropriately financed care into later age. Some of our carers still remain on pay that does not constitute a living wage. The media attention which has shown how care homes have borne such a terrible cost in loss of life due to them taking second place, has caused us to sit up and take note. If we truly appreciate the contribution such carers make to our society then we must join in bringing about change to the political systems which govern such care. We cannot go back to ignoring those we cannot see!

And there are so many more whom we have overlooked both in the Church and wider society in terms of either our unconscious bias or our unwillingness to choose to see them. Whether it is fear of difference or the comfort of homogeneity, we have narrowed our vision and lost sight of the broader horizon over the years.

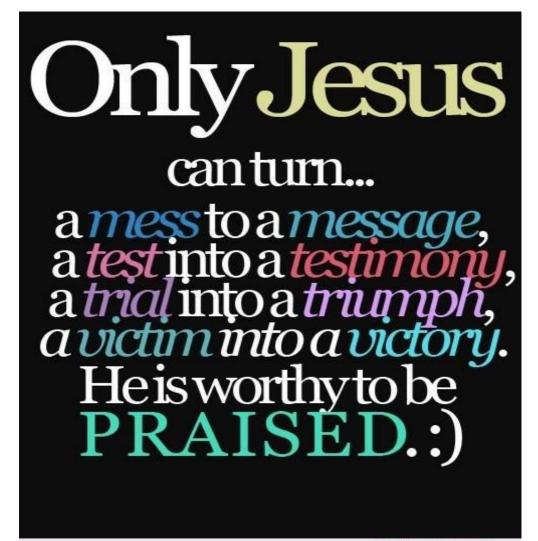
I say 'we' but let's own it...'I'. 'me'! Early passions in ministry which sought to speak out for the most disadvantaged have settled into a pattern of balancing out the needs of all and thus diminishing the injustices of those whom I fail to see. The cause of those of a different ethnicity or sexuality, the concerns of those with mental or physical health needs, the case for the eldest or youngest in our society has often remained unrecognised.

But there are signs of hope.

The fear of pandemic has led to society re-evaluating what is important in life, our values, our purpose and those we love. 'Key work' is no longer focused on the financial markets as we have seen the economy tumble but rather on those who offer us a service of care. The more vulnerable in our communities have experienced an outpouring of generosity from neighbours and volunteers as they have become a focus of attention rather than remaining hidden and unseen

behind closed doors. We cannot go back...

As I write this I'm reminded of the vignette of the child being brought into the company of Jesus by a parent. The disciples tried to muscle them out of the way, an unimportant intrusion, not worthy of notice. Jesus' response was to draw the child into the centre as the focus of attention. His challenge to the disciples was not only to see but to become like children themselves.



Church Information



Evening Prayer on Zoom Order of Service

https://www.stmichaelsbroadway.org/church-services

Join Zoom Meeting (recurring meeting details) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89563918565?
pwd=SEdLbGdhMWFFR0xDNII1OC9NTzNyQT09

Meeting ID: 895 6391 8565

Password: 591377



Give a little

The diocese are trying to help churches, which due to Covid19 cannot fundraise or meet weekly as they did before March 23rd. This has had an impact on churches across the diocese and church including our own churches that still have weekly and monthly expenses that have to be paid but are struggling to fundraise and as yet aren't meeting for gathered worship.

To help support St Michael's and St Eadburgha's churches—give online to Broadway PCC please use this link from SUMUP: https://givealittle.co/campaigns/517bdd8b-33bf-4a59-92f4-7b8d88840249?
https://givealittle.co/campaigns/517bdd8b-33bf-4a59-92f4-7b8d88840249?
https://givealittle.co/campaigns/517bdd8b-33bf-4a59-92f4-7b8d88840249?
https://givealittle.co/campaigns/517bdd8b-33bf-4a59-92f4-7b8d88840249?
https://givealittle.co/campaigns/517bd8b-33bf-4a59-92f4-7b8d88840249?
https://givealittle.co/campaigns/fbclid=lwAR0RNYX2EJfHX_J5A2RjB6SpuCyYU0DrtPL4CynAYu7Shdy8NIxBevq6vFl

Join Shellie with a cuppa - Coffee Club on Zoom

A space to meet, chat and catch up Bring you own coffee / tea and link in

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83887886545? pwd=Z3hUZHFsa250SnhvVk9TTndrSUU4QT09

Meeting ID: 838 8788 6545

Password: 867308



Private Prayer

St Michael's Church, Broadway

Open Sunday's and Wednesday's—10am—12pm

This week the Church of England changed it's guidelines and it is now recommended and encouraged that you wear a facemask when entering a church.

St Eadburgha's Church, Broadway

Open Tuesday's and Friday's—10am—12pm from 4th August

St John's Church, Wickhamford and St Mary's Childswickham remain closed at this time due to their risk assessments.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Other Useful Information found on Facebook or other places online

Information from the Diocese

Live Streaming of services

You can follow the links to these churches online via the diocesan page: https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/2020/03/16/coronavirus-latest-information/I have chosen, for now, to offer a WhatsApp group where we can pray, share and communicate as a benefice—if you wish to join the group please send me your mobile number and download the app. There is always the prayer booklet on our churches website and a hard copy is in church.

The following churches will be live streaming. Please do point people to these if you're not able to stream worship yourself.

Worcester Cathedral will be streaming their 8.30am service each morning on the Cathedral Facebook page. (From Sunday 22 March)

All Saints in Worcester are streaming 11am morning prayer and 10pm Compline as well as a Sunday service at 10.30am on YouTube.

Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill will be streaming their Sunday service at 10.45am on You Tube.

Malvern Link with Cowleigh parish will be streaming a 9.45am Eucharist and 11.15am Contemporary Worship on Sundays on their Facebook page.

Christ Church, Lye will be streaming prayers and a sermon at 11am on Sunday morning on their Facebook page.

East Vale and Avon benefice are putting together a series of online services which can be accessed through their website.

Holy Trinity & St Matthew, Ronkswood, Worcester will be live streaming worship via Zoom on Sunday at 10am and 6pm. Details about how to join in are on the parish website.

St Mary, Old Swinford, Stourbridge is live streaming services on Thursdays at 10.30am and Sunday at 10am. More details on the parish website

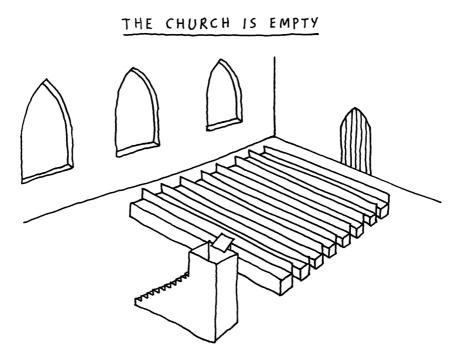
St Peter, Cradley is live streaming daily morning prayer at 8.30am and Compline in the late afternoon through their Facebook page

Hagley and Clent are offering Sunday worship at 10.30am via Zoom and all are welcome to join them. Contact the Rector, Richard Newton for more details.

Morning Prayer from Worcester Cathedral

Watch Morning Prayer from Worcester Cathedral. This is one way in which we are linking members of the Cathedral community as well as the wider public to the Cathedral's daily offering of praise and prayer.

https://www.facebook.com/watch/WorcesterCathedral/



THIS IS BECAUSE EVERYONE IS BUSY



HELPING AT THE



DELIVERING PRESCRIPTIONS



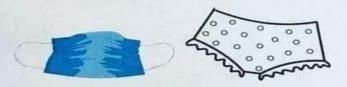
CREATING ONLINE WORSHIP





RUNNING THE
DEBT ADVICE CENTRE

Treat your Mask like Underwear



- 1. Do not touch or adjust (especially in public).
- 2. Do not borrow or lend.
- 3. Make sure fit is tight but comfortable.
- 4. Make sure it is clean (at least daily).
- 5. Wear the right side out.
- 6. If it is stained, throw it away.
- 7. If it is damp, change it.
- 8. Don't go commando!

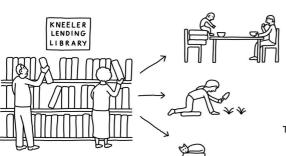




HOW THEY ARE DURING THE PANDEMIC

SOME WERE LENT OUT BEFORE THE START OF LOCKDOWN

A FEW WERE PILFERED (VERY TRICKY TO DETECT)





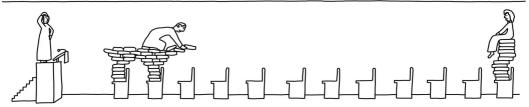




PENITENT KNEELER THIEF RETURNS STASH, HAVING BEEN CONVERTED BY EMBROIDERED MESSAGES



(SOCIALLY-DISTANCED) TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISES THE CLERGY USE THE REMAINDER FOR



CartoonChurch.com









LAMPSHADE

POPCORN HOLDER

HANGING BASKET

GLOVE









PIPING BAG

MEASURING DEVICE

OVEN MITT

TEA COSY

BUNTING



WASTE PAPER BASKET









BELLOWS



RAINBOW





Samaritans 116 123 (24hrs free)

National Centre for Domestic Violence 0207 186 8270

Mental health

The Church of England has produced some mental health reflections to help you in this time of uncertainty. You can access them at: cofe.io/MentalHealth.

The Mental Health Foundation has also produced some useful resources, which can be found at: https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus

You can find a host of other mental health resources from a variety of different organisations and charities. https://www.mentalhealthatwork.org.uk/toolkit/ coronavirus-and-isolation-supporting-vourself-and-vour-colleagues/

Some helpful books and resources are also available from Sacristy Press at https://www.sacristy.co.uk/books/coronavirus-church-resources#



9am to 9pm 7 Days a week DIFFERENCE TO YOUR COMM



The National Lottery Community Fund



edmhss.org





Broadway Coronavirus Support Network

47 mins · 🕥



A MESSAGE FROM OUR GROUP AND VOLUNTEERS

As we move into a new and more hopeful phase since the Covid Pandemic began - our amazing team of Volunteers are now returning to work either full or part time and whilst many will endeavour to help those self isolating and vulnerable stocked up it may now take a litter longer to provide food and medications, for eg - these might be dropped later in the day to fit around our working hours.

We would like to extend a HUGE note of thanks to all of our Volunteers who have made such a difference by helping those in need in our Village.

THANK YOU TEAM BROADWAY SUPPORT NETWORK 👲





NO HEIGHT NO DEPTH NO FEAR NO DEBT

CAN SEPARATE ME FROM YOUR LOVE