

(Written on the introduction of mask wearing during the Covid epidemic.)

What a crazy world we are living in. This time last year teenagers were being banned from some shops because they were part covering their faces with their hoodies. We now have the situation where everyone is being told to part cover their faces with a mask!

I do not wish to enter into a debate as to the advantages/disadvantages of wearing masks, but, I am concerned about a particular group of people who especially need our thoughtfulness and prayers with regard to masks. For those who are hard of hearing masks pose a number of problems.

If you place the elastic over your hearing aid the elastic tends to knock the hearing aid off your ear and for some types of hearing aids, the elastic presses on the switch and switches it off! There is a great deal of reliability on lip-reading and on noticing facial expressions – both of which are lost when the speaker is wearing a mask. In addition to these things, the speech also becomes very muffled and is even more difficult to hear than normal. Please pray that those who are hard of hearing do not become even more isolated during the present circumstances. Be patient – You may be asked to repeat things several times!



Have you noticed that sometimes we can wear another sort of mask? We do not actually have anything covering our faces, but, we wear a mask and hide our thoughts and feelings from others. (Mind you, perhaps it is a good thing they do not always know what we are thinking about them!) One thing we are not able to do however, is to hide our thoughts and feelings from God. It is a bit of a scary thought that God knows everything we are thinking as well as hearing everything that we say. Is our language **ALWAYS** suitable for God to hear? Are our thoughts **ALWAYS** fit for God to know about? I know that there is not one of us who is perfect, but, as



Christians God sets a high standard for us to achieve, regardless of whether or not we are wearing any sort of mask.

Psalms 139: 'O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit or stand. You know my every thought. Every moment you know where I am. You know what I am going to say even before I say it. You both precede and follow me, and place your hand of blessing on my head.'