

Hello, I am a patient at this practice and I'm 55 years old. My wife goes to church and suggested that I put an article in her church magazine to try to put in words my thoughts about my illness together with thanking people for their kind thoughts. So here it is.

Life - Is it really worth it ?

Due to bad health I am at a major crossroads in my life. At these times this question is probably most prominent in your thoughts. We go through life blissfully unaware of what is around the corner but life has a way of putting a spanner in the works and its at these times that we are most tested.

In my case I have recently been diagnosed with cancer. The treatment for this is going to be long and hard and will culminate in a major operation that will change my life forever. So is life really worth it? Well quite simply I am facing two options, one option is to be positive and with faith, trust and support I know I am going to make it. The other option is to go into a deep decline of self pity, reject all help and support with the outcome being unthinkable. So I am taking the positive option and my Doctors can't believe how positive I actually am.. But I WANT to get better.

I have made up the following acronym

Courage

And

Never

Capitulate

Enables

Recovery

This could be applied to any serious illness. You need courage and never give in, this will help in your recovery. Then there's that stupid question "Why me?" This should be "Why us?" When serious illness strikes it hurts a lot of people. Your partner, wife, husband, brothers and sisters , all will be hurting in their own way.

So was life really worth it before my illness? Yes it was. I have a happy family life with my wife and am passionate about photography. I love to take photographs of nearly anything but the ones I like the best are those of the natural world. Plants insects, birds and landscapes never cease to amaze me how much beauty God has put in front of me. It might be flippant of me, but I say to my wife you go to church to praise God but I see God behind the lense of a camera and there is nothing more amazing. This is one of my targets to aid my recovery, to get back out there and take some more shots.

When this goes to print I will have already started my radiation treatment and chemotherapy at Christies but at the moment I have been "Planned" in and am waiting to start." How do you

feel?" I'm asked "You look alright". "Have you lost any weight?" To look at me now you wouldn't think anything is wrong. So I'm set to go and feel like an Astronaut. Scared, full of anticipation but know that I have a good support team and will reach the Moon or a marathon runner at the start line. Its going to be a long hard slog and there will be some tough uphill sections but the goal is to cross the finishing line.

I have had an enormous amount of support for various members of the church offering their prayers and thoughts. Some parishioners I would know by face even though I'm not familiar with their names but my wife knows you all and I am very touched and extremely grateful, its means a lot. Despite not being a member of your faith I would like to thank all the clergy at church for your support it has been much appreciated.

I know everyone is saying prayers for my health but if you could say a couple that I win the lottery (Only Joking, that prayer was answered when I married my wife).

So back to the main question - **Life** - is it really worth it?

Answer - Just look around you **OF COURSE IT IS !!**

Thank you