**Letter from the Vicar**

Friday 8 May 2020

75th Anniversary of V.E. Day

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.**

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

If someone had told me a year ago that you could have such community spirit, each from the confines of your own garden, to mark a national anniversary I would probably have laughed out loud! And yet that is exactly what many have experienced today. Streets and neighbours coming together (at the appropriate 2m distance, to celebrate the defeat of Nazi-ism in Europe and commemorate the end of conflict 75 years ago. Like many, the residents of Charles Street sang a rousing rendition of *We’ll meet again* – words that have taken on new significance these last 8 weeks. I don’t mind sharing that amidst all the jollity and seeing my neighbours and friends from a distance I shed a tear as I recalled not being able to see so many people – friends, parishioners, family, work colleagues (thank goodness I was wearing sunglasses!)

On Sunday the government is going to share its latest thinking on how we can stay safe during whilst the pandemic continues. I know many businesses, workers, schools and parents, not to mention those who are isolating are keen to know the timetable and potential roadmap for lifting lockdown. Last Tuesday the House of Bishop did exactly this for the Church of England. Since the Archbishops ‘decreed’ that all church buildings were to be locked no-one has been allowed to pray in our churches and I have only been able to go in to church to check the building is secure and conduct any other essential business. Obviously, whilst I have been in all 3 of our churches I have prayed for you all as it I find it impossible not to bring you before the Lord in pray when I am in our churches. But at the meeting on Tuesday the Bishops decided that clergy are once more allowed to enter their churches to pray. Hooray! I shall therefore be back the at the High Altar of St John’s this Sunday to bring you all before God in prayer and thanksgiving as I preside over Eucharist – an appropriate day to be back at the Altar as we celebrate our Patron Saint. This return to church for me will be tinged with a great sadness, as, when I look out I won’t be able to see any of you as gatherings are still restricted. I’m also not allowed to open the doors for private prayer, yet, but I am exploring whether I can open the glass doors (leaving the wooden doors locked) so that folk can enter the porch and light a candle.

The Eucharist on Sunday morning will be made available on the Parish website for 9.30am. The Order of Service will continue to be published on the website and I hope you will wish to join with me in worship.

I hope you all continue to be in good health. Love, prayers, and the Blessing of the Risen Christ be upon you and those whom you love, for…

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.**

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In Christ,



The Reverend Michael Macey The Reverend Canon Dr Ruth Goatly

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