

Letter from the Vicar

Friday 29 May 2020

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the course of this pandemic these letters have got harder to write. Although I have been able to be in contact with a good number of parishioners during lockdown and I've got to see some of you via our Zoom social gatherings or whilst out walking, that certainly isn't the same as seeing you regularly, week by week, for a chat at the church doors. In addition the normal run of events is not happening and so the depth of experience, material, and conversations upon which to draw for inspiration is now quite shallow.

I suspect, that like most people, I was not alone in spending most of Bank Holiday Monday in the garden, basking in the glorious sunshine. It might sound strange, given that we have been bunkered down in our homes for the last couple of months, but I really enjoyed not having to do anything on Monday – not having to go anywhere; not sitting at my desk on a Zoom call; not home-schooling; not thinking I should be anywhere else. As a family we tend to try and get out and about on Bank Holidays so it was extra nice to sit in the sun, reading a book I started over a year ago but not got round to finishing, and playing in the paddling pool with my girls.

This past week was also meant to be half-term for all our schools. Chatting to some other parents I've discovered their homes have taken on new names for home-schooling: "..... Academy"; "..... Primary"; "..... Prep School". My eldest has even started referencing home-schooling in her games with her Barbies: "... we mustn't be late for home-school...!" Parents, children, teachers are all exhausted this half-term. At Easter it was still all new and even exciting in a way, and families were looking for ways to keep structure to their days so they carried on without a break. Now, these holidays are a welcome break and I hope teachers and admin staff have been able to get some time-off this last week. Most of the schools in our Parish have been open throughout lockdown for children of key workers – even during the holidays – and teachers have been setting work for their classes to do at home.

Next week some of our schools and children will return to the classroom and some of the amended or lifted restrictions will take effect. Over the last 10 or so weeks I have been so impressed by the general willingness to make the best of it all by so many and to abide by the restrictions that have been placed upon us. Of course there has been the odd occasion when the rules have been broken – both in this community and further afield – but the overwhelming view has been to protect others and to protect ourselves. We all know these rules have been hard, and there have been times when we have questioned them or nearly gone out of our minds, but the vast majority have seen they are there for the greater good and done their very best.

This week I was hoping to have heard from our Bishop about the possible timeframe for when our doors may open for private and public worship including Sunday worship, Funerals and Weddings. Alas, this news has not yet come. I know we are all looking forward to being back in the sacred spaces of our churches and plans are underway as to what and how services might look and feel when we are allowed to return. I will keep you posted on these developments.

For now, as always, I send you my love and pray that the Holy Spirit may comfort, guide, and sustain you.

In Christ,



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