

Letter from the Vicar

Friday 5 June 2020

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Who's done anything 'exciting' this week? By 'exciting' I don't mean things we were able to do pre-lockdown like going-out for a posh dinner; a trip to the cinema; a holiday; a family get-together. Instead, for me, the height of exciting is sending Sophie back to school; having a Zoom drinks with a dear friend not seen in what seems like an age; and having a round of golf – which I won 3&2! I don't know about you but I have certainly started to enjoy a bit more the simpler things in life. Many will know I am not an avid reader, and yet I'm finding the 'noise' of e-gadgets unnecessary and a real joy curling up on the sofa with a good book. Who knew that would ever happen!

From conversations with many of you I know that some have been struggling to find things to do with your time, some have not got enough things to do to keep you interested, and others are either flat-out with work, family, or both. Our lockdown experiences are not the same. And yet most of us will be able to say 'where has the time gone?' Towards the beginning of lockdown I set myself 3 tasks around the house (in addition to my responsibilities as your vicar and as a husband and father). These were: 1) tidy the garage so that you could actually walk in it; 2) mend the rather precarious wine rack; 3) build Sophie's bunkbeds and sort out her room. It sounds silly to have only completed 2 of these but since the weather has been so pleasant I have taken every available opportunity to be outside with the children. Today, a damp and dark day (the first in a long time), the third task will get ticked-off along with final preparations for leading worship this weekend. I wonder what, if any, of the tasks or goals you set yourself at the start of lockdown still await completion? It's so easy to procrastinate.

On Tuesday night the Standing Committee of the PCC met via Zoom and one of the main items for discussion was our preparations for re-opening our buildings. Plans are starting to be formulated but this is not a simple 'just open the doors' experience. For starters we don't know what is permissible resulting in numerous scenarios at play. We don't know when we will open. We don't know how Public Worship will be ordered and what restrictions will still be in place. But despite these uncertainties we are working towards finding ways for you to be able to come back into your churches, your spiritual homes, and enable you to come into the presence of God in a new yet familiar way. I suspect that for the foreseeable future we will need to continue to stream our services online and work is being done to try and get this to be a live streaming. But until then, I find it quite comforting to think that many of you are joining together at 9.30am on a Sunday morning to separately come together to worship almighty God. Of course I know others join at different times or days and that is absolutely fine – I just hope that we are feeding and sustaining you in your journey of faith with God who has revealed himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This Sunday is Trinity Sunday aka Heretic Sunday: a day when preachers try to explain the mystery of God. In years gone by, if the preacher spoke wrongly on this feast day they would be taken and burned at the stake. Perhaps I am fortunate that we are gathering virtually rather than in person?

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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