

Letter from the Vicar

Friday 24 July 2020

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I think this is my 19th weekly letter to you during these extraordinary times. On the one hand it doesn't feel like 19 weeks and on the other it feels longer. Time, as I have said before, seems to be contained in a vacuum at present. And yet, when one looks out of the window or takes a walk in the fields it impossible to miss that the year is marching on. Soon the farmers will begin to gather-in the harvest. The supermarkets have already put away their special summer sales area and turned it into a back to school area! Soon those among us who have been sheltering will be permitted to leave their homes.

Over the last few weeks it has been interesting seeing our community returning to a fuller state of normality. Cricket has returned to the Moor. Sports halls, gyms, and swimming pools have been preparing to open this weekend. The professional football season has nearly finished. Office workers are steadily returning to their places of work whilst also making the most of the ability to work from home for some of the week. And for us as a Church community more and more people are returning each week to our services. It has been lovely to see folk steadily returning – to your faces and have conversations with you face to face – but stewardship of our resources has meant it has not been possible to open all our church buildings. We hope this will be achieved by September.

After spending so long in isolation, with varying degrees of connection, I believe we are all in need of some social interaction. I know some are not ready for this just yet, but for those who are we will be holding an outdoor social drinks event, at St John's, on Thursday 13 August – weather permitting. This will follow the guidance of social distancing but I hope this will enable you to see members of your Church family, in a social setting, whom you potentially haven't seen in a while. Our Zoom socials have been good fun and provided a much needed interactions – and these will continue to be run for the foreseeable future – but there is nothing like chatting to someone in person.

Tomorrow, our Church takes another step towards normality as the first wedding of the summer takes place, and then in a week's time we get to start recalling Banns. Hopefully the weather will be kind to the soon to be newly-weds and they are able to enjoy our church grounds which have had so much care and attention lavished on them during lockdown. My sincere thanks to all who have worked so hard.

As always please be assured of my prayers and best wishes for the coming week. I hope to see as many as are able to join us this weekend for Mass. Regardless, I hope you stay safe and well, confident and enfolded in the love of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In Christ,



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