Letter from the Vicar

Friday 20 November

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Perhaps it is not surprising that I feel like I have runout of things to say in these letters, this being my 35th weekly letter to you during this pandemic. Some of these letters have contained information about what restrictions and regulations are in force and how this impacts our common life as a worshipping community, others regarding events that have happened or upcoming – both religious and secular, and still others have contained news about me and my family in a bid to stay connected. But this week I find myself struggling over what to write about.

Liturgically, and as a Parish, there is little going on at present. We are between major feasts/seasons and I have nothing new to share about our plans for Christmas as these are now dependent on what regulations and restrictions are in place at the time.

Of course I could proffer my opinion and write about our morally bankrupt Government following another disturbing error in judgement where bullying is now supported in government — as has been shown today — but that just seems too depressing. I could write about American politics and the dawning light of change that seems to gaining strength each day over fake news but I find myself getting exasperated by someone who cannot be gracious in defeat let alone admit defeat.

As a family, this week has been highly uneventful. We have plodded-on with the school-run, and both Emma and I have worked as normal. Perhaps the only thing we have done differently is starting to clear the leaves along Heath Lane on Sunday afternoon (as they were getting really slippery) then realising this was too big a job for us. So we contacted the Council, who – to be fair to them – came the next day and made the pavements safe again.

The one positive thing I could write about concerns the advances medics and scientists have made in producing effective vaccines to Covid-19 and the hope and 'light at the end of the tunnel' for all of us. I'm extremely hopeful for these vaccines that they will be the way out of this pandemic and I'm even more grateful to all who have used their skill and wisdom to produce them. But I remain cautious over the timeframe required to vaccinate a whole population and the ordering of how the vaccine is rolled-out. This does not take away my joy at a vaccine being produced. Bravo to our medical scientists!

I hope your week has been enjoyable for you and either passed without negative incident, brought you some joy, or at the very least was like mine and totally uneventful. Once again I trust you are all well and keeping safe and, as always, I leave you with my prayers for each of you; keep safe; and remain secure in the knowledge of our God who loves us, cares for us, and enfolds us in his arms.

In Christ,

The Reverend Michael Macey

Vicar

01442 243258

<u>vicar@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk</u>

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