

Letter from the Vicar

Saturday 23 January 2021

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

So the snow didn't last for long last week but it did remain cold. In the end my family and I did get out for an afternoon walk and I was very appreciative of the hot chocolate I drank upon my return. The weather has been up and down all week but I hope in those rare moments of sunshine you have been able to get out for a walk to blow the cobwebs away. I am so grateful for the local walks we can enjoy through Boxmoor Trust land and to enjoy the diversity of wildlife present even in winter.

American politics may not be your thing but, like many others, I was glued to my TV on Wednesday evening to see Joe Biden become America's 46th president. History was being made, but I was even more captivated by seeing the first female to become Vice President of the United States. The glass ceiling for women has just risen another notch which has to be good news for everyone, and especially my girls as I think about what the future might be like for them.

Earlier on Wednesday I conducted the funerals of Peter Wing and Sheila Charge – both of whom many will, I'm sure, remember. One of the sadnesses of Covid (and the current restrictions) is that attendance is limited to 30 people in church or 20 at West Herts Crem in an effort to reduce contact and the possibility of transmitting the virus. Both services would have been extremely well attended in 'normal' times and yet, like so many other services this year, mourners were asked to join virtually rather than in person. Both services reflected the character of our dearly departed friends with moving tributes given by members of respective families. Tragically the number of funerals is only going to increase as the number of Covid related deaths rises, resulting in more families saying goodbye to loved ones in less than ideal ways and devoid of physical contact.

But there is still hope. As I call members of the congregation each week I hear of more and more people being vaccinated. I hear of the overwhelming majority abiding by the restrictions despite boredom, frustrations, and isolation. I hear of people helping where they find need. I hear of new friendships developing. I hear the steady undertone of "we will get through this!" And we will. And I for one am very much looking forward to welcoming you all back to Church when it is possible to do so again.

For now though, I leave you with my prayers and best wishes. Keep safe; keep positive; keep warm; and remain steadfast in faith that God loves us, cares for us, and enfolds us in his arms.

In Christ,



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